

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

20 December 2016

Report by Director of Education

CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIVE PROPOSAL:
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS TO ALL EAST
RENFREWSHIRE ROMAN CATHOLIC AND NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2017

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To report on the results of the consultation exercise on the proposal to change the admissions and P7 to S1 transfer arrangements which will put in place a single and consistent set of criteria for all East Renfrewshire denominational (Roman Catholic) and non-denominational primary and secondary schools to take effect from January 2017; and ask elected members to approve the resulting recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- i. adopts the proposal with the revised 'Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools Effective from January 2017' as attached as *Appendix F*, and the associated guidance information on 'Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire Effective from January 2017' attached as *Appendix G*; and,
- ii. approves that in so doing it includes transitional measures so that all pupils entitled to a place under the current admissions arrangements and enrolled by the end of December 2016 would continue to be so entitled, (which for St. Ninian's High School necessitates the provision of temporary accommodation).

3. In addition requests that the Director of Education continues to examine future educational provision in areas throughout the authority to ensure there are sufficient educational places according to future local planning processes and resultant new housing land supplies, other demographic changes and relevant modifications to the educational estate as a consequence of local/national educational policy.

BACKGROUND

4. In August 2016 the Education Committee approved that the department should carry out a formal consultation exercise on the proposal described in paragraph 1 above to change admissions and transfer arrangements. A copy of the original consultation document is included as *Appendix A* of the report on the consultation appended to this paper.

5. The proposal set out in the consultation was designed to:
 - i. consult on the proposal to change arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary in respect of all Roman Catholic and non-denominational primary and secondary schools effective from January 2017 as attached as *Appendix 1* to that report; and,
 - ii. include transitional measures so that all pupils entitled to a place under the current admissions arrangements and enrolled by the end of December 2016 would continue to be so entitled, (which for St. Ninian's High School necessitates the provision of temporary accommodation).
 - iii. provide clarity on the authority's proposed arrangements to address oversubscription by pupils from the school's delineated catchment area to any denominational (Roman Catholic) and non-denominational primary and secondary school. In particular, to clarify that priority would be given to baptised Roman Catholic pupils residing in a school's catchment in the event that a Roman Catholic school is oversubscribed.

REPORT

6. A full report on the consultation is included in the Consultation Report on the consultative proposal in the appendix to this paper.
7. Of the 1718 responses received through the general consultation, 88% were from East Renfrewshire residents, 11% from outwith the Council area and for the few remaining cases this is unknown.
8. The overwhelming majority, 72% of the 1718 responses were supportive of the proposal. Overall 71% (890) of the 1256 statutory respondents and 75% (348) of the 462 non-statutory respondents agreed with the proposal.
9. 8 of 11 groups who responded supported the proposal. Of these all but one statutory group agreed with the proposal. The groups who agreed comprised the Archbishop of Glasgow and the Diocese of Paisley for the Roman Catholic Church, Scottish Catholic Education Service and the parent councils of Our Lady of the Missions, St Cadoc's and St Joseph's primary schools, and of St Ninian's and Woodfarm high schools. St Angela's Parent Council was the statutory group that disagreed with the proposal. East Renfrewshire Muslim Forum was not in favour of the proposal albeit supporting priority for the Roman Catholic community to access Roman Catholic schools.
10. Of the views expressed in favour of the proposal, the main themes by the 1238 respondents through the general consultation are paraphrased below:
 - Agree priority for Roman Catholic children to Roman Catholic schools should they be oversubscribed in terms of catchment demand
 - Recognition of sufficient places in non-denominational schools
 - Importance of faith in Roman Catholic schools and for Roman Catholic children e.g. sacraments and gospel values

11. The main concerns and issues raised by all the 480 respondents who disagreed with the proposal through the general consultation can be paraphrased into the following reasons:

- Alleging the proposal is discriminatory
- Consider there should be freedom to select any school
- Generally disagree with the placing request priorities
- Potential for siblings to be at different schools
- Change placing request priorities to give higher priority to siblings
- There should be no priority for Roman Catholic children to attend Roman Catholic schools
- All schools should be non-denominational

12. External consultants managed the consultation with children and young people in the affected schools and again the majority of pupils 54% (or 61% of schools) also supported the proposal. Their report including the views expressed can be found in *Appendix B* of the report on the consultation.

13. In line with their requirement under the relevant legislation concerning schools consultation, Education Scotland submitted a report in relation to the proposal. Their full report is provided as *Appendix D* to the Consultation Report. The Education Scotland report records that 'Overall, the council's proposal is of educational benefit..... would reduce the risk of oversubscription and resulting high occupancy rates in denominational schools'. They spoke to a number of stakeholders and noted support for the proposal and they also highlighted areas they considered required to be addressed. These have all been considered and discussed in the consultation report.

14. Comments addressing the issues raised, including those expressed to Education Scotland, are outlined in paragraphs 43 and 58 of the attached appended report on the consultation.

15. An important tenet of the proposal is that only in the event of oversubscription by catchment pupils would priority be given to baptised Roman Catholic children in Roman Catholic schools. East Renfrewshire prides itself on its inclusive values, practices and attitudes found in its educational establishments. We recognise that some families of other faiths and none seek places in Roman Catholic schools for a faith based education.

16. The Education Department recognises that the consultation was an emotive issue for some members of the community. The department will continue to engage with the local Muslim community on matters relating to education to give siblings a higher priority for a period of two years.

17. There were a number of suggestions for changes to the placing request priorities to help ameliorate the effects on siblings by the proposal. During the consultation concern was expressed about ensuring the validity of catchment residency. As a consequence of this feedback the proposals have been amended.

18. The 'Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools' and the associated guidance information on 'Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire' have now been revised to reflect these points and are attached as *Appendices F* and *G* in the consultation report appended. Both would come into effect from

January 2017 should the proposed arrangements as now revised be approved. Other minor changes to these documents have been made as described in paragraphs 82 and 83 of the consultation report.

19. The revised order of placing requests is shown as an appendix to *Appendix G* in the consultation report and provides discrete lists to be used in cases of oversubscription by catchment and separately for consideration of all other placing requests. During the consultation it was suggested that separate lists be provided for clarity.

20. To reflect the change to give siblings a higher priority for a period of two years, these two lists require to be shown for operation during two different time periods. This will help those families who have already committed to a particular school.

21. The recommendations noted below are made taking full account of the views expressed during this consultation.

FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS

22. As part of the transitional arrangements, there would be an anticipated total capital cost of £750k to provide temporary accommodation at St Ninian's High School for 2021/22 to allow the Council to honour commitments to pupils currently entitled under existing admissions arrangements.

23. Council officers would look at the best value approach taking account of the Council's financial planning to establish the temporary accommodation in coordination with the school. Whilst being mindful of not increasing teaching spaces beyond that required to meet the needs of its agreed intake, addressing accommodation requirements and the use of resources made available will of course be taken forward in a holistic manner recognising where any improvements are needed.

CONSULTATION

24. The paper reports the results of a statutory consultation.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

25. Should elected members approve the recommendations of the paper then new arrangements for the admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary in respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and non-denominational primary and secondary schools would come into effect from January 2017.

26. In addition the Director of Education would submit a bid to the Council's 8-year Capital Plan for the resources required to meet the transitional measures as noted in paragraph 20 above.

CONCLUSION

27. The vast majority of respondents agreed with the proposal acknowledging there are sufficient places across the school estate, that baptised Roman Catholic children and young people be given priority should a Roman Catholic school be oversubscribed by catchment demand and recognising that all East Renfrewshire schools will remain open to all pupils.

RECOMMENDATIONS

28. It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- i. adopts the proposal with the revised 'Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools Effective from January 2017' as attached as *Appendix F* and the associated guidance information on 'Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire Effective from January 2017' attached as *Appendix G*; and,
- ii. approves that in so doing it includes transitional measures so that all pupils entitled to a place under the current admissions arrangements and enrolled by the end of December 2016 would continue to be so entitled, (which for St. Ninian's High School necessitates the provision of temporary accommodation).

29. In addition requests that the Director of Education continues to examine future educational provision in areas throughout the authority to ensure there are sufficient educational places according to future local planning processes and resultant new housing land supplies, other demographic changes and relevant modifications to the educational estate as a consequence of local/national educational policy.

Mhairi Shaw
Director of Education
20 December 2016

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Local Government Access to Information Act 1985

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Appendix

Consultation Report on the Consultative Proposal: Proposed Changes to the Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools Effective From January 2017

Background Papers

Paper to Education Committee, Proposed Changes to the Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools Effective From January 2017, 25 August 2016

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL : EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIVE PROPOSAL:
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS AND THE
TRANSFER OF PUPILS FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY IN RESPECT OF ALL
EAST RENFREWSHIRE ROMAN CATHOLIC AND NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2017**

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL : EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIVE PROPOSAL: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS AND THE TRANSFER OF PUPILS FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY IN RESPECT OF ALL EAST RENFREWSHIRE ROMAN CATHOLIC AND NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2017

REPORT BY DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND

1. On Thursday 25 August 2016, the Education Committee approved the issue of a consultative document on the proposal to change the admissions arrangements which would put in place a single and consistent set of criteria for all East Renfrewshire denominational (Roman Catholic) and non-denominational primary and secondary schools to take effect from January 2017. A copy of the original consultative document is attached as *Appendix A*.
2. The consultative document discusses that there continues to be an increase in the number of pupils attending schools in the east of the Council area, particularly those pupils following a denominational (Roman Catholic) education. Whilst it is recognised that East Renfrewshire schools attract a considerable number of placing requests, the Council needs to provide adequate and efficient provision of school education for its area i.e. provide sufficient pupil places for residents.
3. The consultative document notes that with the new planned non-denominational primary school at Maidenhill there are sufficient places for East Renfrewshire residents across the school estate taking account of known planned residential development in accordance with the Adopted Local Development Plan.
4. Accordingly it was proposed to make more efficient and effective management of the existing school estate, whilst ensuring all schools remain open to all pupils by changing the current arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary school. The changes to the arrangements for admissions and P7 to S1 transfer would provide a means to address oversubscription by pupils from the school's delineated catchment area to any denominational (Roman Catholic) and non-denominational primary and secondary school. In particular, to clarify that priority would be given to baptised Roman Catholic pupils residing in a school's catchment in the event that a Roman Catholic school is oversubscribed.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

5. The Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
6. The formal consultative document was summarised and issued to statutory consultees with an accompanying letter explaining the process and inviting views and made publicly available. The information included prior notice of two public meetings to discuss the proposal. The consultation was well publicised on the Council's website and engagement through its twitter feed. Interested parties were encouraged to provide feedback on East Renfrewshire Council's website

www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultation ; or alternatively by other means such as completing and returning the consultation response proforma.

7. Written representations on the consultative proposal were sought from all interested parties including the Catholic Church and the Parent Councils of all affected schools (East Renfrewshire primary and secondary schools and St Angela's and St Vincent's primary schools in Glasgow City Council).
8. In accordance with statutory requirements, pupils, parents/carers affected by the proposal, the Parent Councils, members of staff and unions representing staff in the affected schools were invited to respond to the proposal. Copies of the consultation material were also sent to members of the Education Committee, Community Councils, East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership, Glasgow City Council, local elected members, local Members of Parliament and the local Members of Scottish Parliament representing residents in East Renfrewshire. Education Scotland was advised of the consultation and a copy of the consultation pack was sent.
9. Head teachers of affected schools were asked to ensure that they included the consultation on a staff meeting agenda and advise staff of the consultation period and that they could submit an individual and/or a group response or respond through their union representative(s).
10. The Director of Education on behalf of East Renfrewshire Council wrote to Archbishop Tartaglia, Bishop Keenan, and the Director of Scottish Catholic Education Service bringing this consultation to their attention as official consultees.
11. The Director of Education also wrote to the Service Director of Education for Glasgow City Council.
12. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended requires that the pupil voice is heard on this matter in so far as the authority considers them to be of suitable age and maturity. The Education Department followed the guidance for local authorities on pupil consultations provided by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People, with the assistance of Children in Scotland, and engaged independent educational consultants to conduct the consultation exercise with children and young people in all the affected primary and secondary schools. The consultants independently managed the pupil consultation exercise and produced a report of all the results of the pupil consultations which is attached as *Appendix B*.
13. The consultation period was from Friday 26 August 2016 to midnight on Monday 10 October 2016.
14. The existence of the consultative document was publicised in the press and copies were made available in both the Council Offices, in affected schools and the summary document was also sent to doctors' surgeries. A dedicated page on the Council's website was established to facilitate information and invite interested parties to respond to the proposal. Responses were invited to be submitted by completing an online form (<http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultation>), by posting a hard copy of the response form or by writing to the Education Department. *Appendix 3* of the original consultative proposal document in *Appendix A* shows the proforma to help consultees submit a response if they wished to use it.
15. Consultees were asked to be clear about who they were, where they lived, why they were interested including their relationship with the affected schools (e.g. parent of pupil in an affected school, member of staff at an affected school, relative of a pupil at

an affected school etc.). They were also asked whether or not they agreed with the proposal, offered the opportunity to give reasons for their agreement or otherwise or had any additional comments. Consultees were advised that petitions would be treated as a single response.

16. To provide further background about the consultative proposal two public meetings were held at 7pm; one in the west of the council area (at Carlibar Primary School on 21 September 2016) and one in the east (at Eastwood Theatre on 28 September 2016). Two meetings specifically for invited representatives of all affected schools Parent Councils were arranged. One meeting was held on 13 September 2016 at 7pm in Carlibar Primary School and the other on 19 September 2016 at 7pm in Carmichael Hall.
17. Chris Webb, an independent consultant, chaired these four meetings and the Convener/Vice Convener for Education and Equalities, the Director of Education and senior officers from East Renfrewshire attended the meetings. The main purpose of the meetings was to set out the proposal and provide further background and clarification in answering questions from the audience. The same presentation was made at all meetings. The meetings were well attended and the notes of these meetings are attached as *Appendix C*.
18. The consultation was included on the agenda of the Equalities Forum held at 7pm on 15 September 2016 at Mearns Castle High School. The consultative document and associated documentation was translated in Urdu and made available on request. To help clarify some points raised by the Muslim community a separate meeting took place in Woodfarm High School at 6pm on 3 October 2016. These meetings were chaired by the Vice Convener for Education and Equalities and attended by the Director of Education and senior education officers.
19. Officers responded to any requests for further information and enquiries relating to the proposal including Freedom for Information requests.
20. During the various discussions, meetings and correspondence about the proposal, there were a number of questions that were raised by more than one interested party. These were collated and a full response to each question was provided and shared on the Council's website to help answer questions about the proposal and the procedure.
21. All responses to the consultation were logged, numbered and acknowledgements sent.
22. Written representations were considered up to and including midnight on Monday 10 October 2016.

THE CONSULTATION: NUMBER OF RESPONSES

23. This section of the report provides information on the number of written responses. Details from the consultation with pupils undertaken by the consultants are considered first, followed by all other written responses. There were 98 responses by pupils in an affected school gathered as part of the general consultation. In addition two pupils from other schools responded. These are shown separately with the other written responses and not as alongside the pupils consultation exercise managed by the consultants.

24. Statutory respondents include parents/carers* of all pupils in the affected schools (*where a carer means the responsible adult with whom the affected young person lives), Parent Council of each affected school, parents of any child(ren) expected to attend an affected school within the next 2 school years, pupils of each affected school considered to be of suitable age and maturity, staff of each affected school, trade unions representing staff employed in the affected schools, the Catholic Church, East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership, Community Councils, Glasgow City Council, local elected members, MPs and MSPs representing residents within East Renfrewshire. Education Scotland must also be involved and report on the educational aspects of the proposal.
25. As noted in paragraph 12 above, independent education consultants conducted the consultation exercise with children in the affected schools. A copy of the consultants' report is provided in *Appendix B*, which outlines the process of engaging P4 to P7 pupils and S1 to S6 pupils in all East Renfrewshire primary and secondary schools and in St Angela's and St Vincent's primary schools in Glasgow City Council. Their report summaries all responses and provides details on pupils' views expressed, which will be discussed later.
26. The actual number returns by pupils expressing a view is shown below:

Number of Pupil Responses		
P4 to P7	S1 to S6	Total
4726	4899	9625

27. A total of 1747 written returns including on-line submissions were received in response to the consultation, other than the pupil responses directly managed by the consultants. These returns were acknowledged and recorded. As noted in paragraph 23 above of these returns 100 were from pupils. Where a reply was clearly a response by more than one individual, such replies were recorded as 2 or more responses as appropriate. There were a few duplicate returns made by the same individuals.
28. After taking account of returns noting responses from more than one individual and removing duplicate responses, a total of 1718 responses were received. This was in addition to the 9625 pupil responses noted above in paragraph 26.
29. The table below shows the number of written responses including those submitted by pupils and whether or not the response is from a statutory consultee.

Total Number of Responses: Statutory/ Non-Statutory			
Respondent	From Statutory Respondent	From Non-Statutory Respondent	Total
Pupil (via independent consultants' exercise)	9625	NA	9625
Pupil (others)	98	2	100
All Other Responses	1158	460	1618

30. Of the 1718 responses received through the general consultation, 88% were from East Renfrewshire residents, 11% from outwith the Council area and for the few remaining cases this is unknown.

31. 96% of all responses in the above table were from statutory consultees and of those 89% were from pupils and 11% from other individuals/groups.
32. The following table shows the percentage of all responses (1718) excluding those managed by the consultants' exercise with pupils and whether or not the response is from an East Renfrewshire resident or otherwise.

Responses (1718) excluding those managed by the consultants' exercise with pupils			
Residence	Statutory	Non-Statutory	Total
ERC	67.2%	21.3%	88.5%
Non-ERC	5.8%	5.5%	11.2%
Unknown	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Total	73.1%	26.9%	100.0%

33. From the table it can be seen that the largest group who responded were East Renfrewshire residents with around two thirds (67.2%) being from a statutory respondent. Respondents residing outwith the Council area accounted for 11.2% of the responses with just over half of them being from statutory respondent.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED: SUMMARY OF VIEWS

34. This section provides a summary of the views within the written submissions.
35. As noted in paragraph 12 above, the views of pupils are recorded in the independent consultant's report in *Appendix B*. The table below provides a summary of the views in the consultant's report. It shows the percentage of pupils who agreed with the proposal and those who disagreed with the proposal. The consultants note that 453 primary pupils and 566 secondary pupils chose not to make a response/express a view. Their numbers are not included in the responses.

Sector	Number of Responses	% Responses who Agree with Proposal	% Responses who Disagree with Proposal
P4 to P7	4726	50.8%	49.2%
S1 to S6	4899	57.1%	42.9%
Total	9625	54%	46%

36. Overall a majority of pupils agreed with the proposal (54%). In the secondary this was 57.1% and in primary 50.8%. More details can be found in the consultants' report in *Appendix B*.
37. As noted above, a total of 24 primary and 7 secondary schools were consulted. Looking at the overall results in terms of the 31 schools (East Renfrewshire and the two Glasgow City schools), 61.3% (19 schools) overall agreed with the proposal. This is shown in the table below.

Sector	Number of Schools	% of Schools' Responses who Agree with Proposal	% of Schools' Responses who Disagree with Proposal
Primary	24	58.3%	41.7%
Secondary	7	71.4%	28.6%
Total	31	61.3%	38.7%

38. The following table provides an analysis of the views of all 1718 respondents other than those gathered from pupils by the consultants. It includes the 100 pupils as noted in paragraph 23 who responded to the general consultation, given they have specifically chosen to respond and also because it is not possible to determine if they did respond via the exercise managed by the consultants. The table shows whether responses are from East Renfrewshire residents or non- East Renfrewshire residents and whether they are in favour of the proposal or not.

Responses (1718) excluding those managed by the consultants' exercise with pupils			
Residence	Agree	Disagree	Total
ERC	65.8%	22.7%	88.5%
Non-ERC	6.2%	5.1%	11.2%
Unknown	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Total	72.1%	27.9%	100.0%
Total Number	1238	480	1718

39. Overall 72.1% of these responses (1238) agreed with the proposal and both those residing in East Renfrewshire and outwith East Renfrewshire were in favour of the proposal.
40. Further analysis by respondent and whether they are a statutory/non-statutory and were supportive of the proposal or otherwise is shown in the table below. The groups that responded include the Roman Catholic Church, some Parent Councils and the East Renfrewshire Muslim Forum. There was one response from an elected representative included in the other category, which also includes respondents who stated no particular current affiliation with the affected schools such as former students and residents.

All Responses (Other than Pupils via Independent Consultants' Exercise)

Respondent	Number of Responses by View				Total
	Statutory		Non-Statutory		
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	
Pupil in Affected School/EL&CC	56	42			98
Pupil in Non-Affected School/EL&CC			1	1	2
Staff in Affected School/EL&CC	46	6			52
Parent/Carer* in Affected School/EL&CC	780	316			1096
Parent/Carer* in Non-Affected School/EL&CC			11	13	24
Group	7	1	1	2	11
Relative/Other Carer			167	64	231
Other	1	1	168	34	204
Grand Total	890	366	348	114	1718

Note: If a respondent belonged to more than one of the above categories then the main category is shown in the above table. For example if a parent/carer* has responded that they are also a relative, then their response is recorded as parent/carer* and as such their response taken is statutory.

(*where a carer means the responsible adult with whom the affected young person lives).

41. 71% (890) of the 1256 statutory respondents and 75% (348) of the 462 non-statutory respondents agreed with the proposal. For each of the respondent categories in the above table, other than two of the three non-statutory groups, the only category that disagreed with the proposal was parents/carers* in a non-affected school/EL&CC. Of them 54% (13 of the 24) disagreed with the proposal.
42. Almost 1100 (1096) parents/carers* with children in an affected school/EL&CC responded to the consultation and of them 71% agreed with the proposal; 57% of the 98 pupils in an affected school/EL&CC agreed; 88% of the 52 staff from an affected school/EL&CC who responded agreed; and seven of the eight statutory groups agreed (Roman Catholic Church and Parent Councils of affected schools).
43. Of the non-statutory responses, 72% of the 231 respondents identified as relatives other than parents/carers agreed with the proposal as did 82% of the 204 respondents in the 'other' category. Two of the three non-statutory groups disagreed with the proposal.
44. The table below summarises views for all responses received.

All Responses			
Respondent	Number of responses	% Responses who Agree with Proposal	% Responses who Disagree with Proposal
Pupil (via independent consultants' exercise)	9625	54%	46%
Pupil (others)	100	57%	43%
All Other Responses	1618	73%	27%

45. The majority of respondents were in favour of the proposal.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED: MAIN POINTS

46. This section details the main points raised at the public meetings and within the written submissions. All submitted written responses were read by officers to ensure that the main points from respondents were included in this report.

Main Points – Pupils via Independent Consultants' Exercise

47. As noted in paragraph 12 above, the views of pupils are recorded in the independent consultants' report in *Appendix B*. The consultants' report provides the results of the written responses by pupils to the consultation recording their views expressed.

48. The following is a summary of the main points arising from the responses submitted by pupils to the proposal.

49. In the consultants' exercise of the views expressed by pupils in favour of the proposal, the main themes are paraphrased below:

- The proposal is fair
- Helps manage places in highly populated schools and avoids overcrowding
- Agree priority for Roman Catholic children to be education in their faith environment
- East Renfrewshire residents should get priority over Non-East Renfrewshire residents

There was recognition that Roman Catholic schools are inclusive and they valued that, however appreciated that when numbers are tight then priority should be afforded to Roman Catholic children for entry to their local Roman Catholic school.

50. Pupils who disagreed with the proposal thought the proposal was unfair; all schools should be open to all; concern over siblings/friends attending different schools.

Main Points – Of All Respondents (Other than Pupils via Independent Consultants' Exercise)

51. Various themes were highlighted by respondents to the proposal. The most popular themes were those expressed by respondents in favour of the proposal.

52. Of the views expressed in favour of the proposal, the main themes by all respondents are paraphrased below:
- Agree priority for Roman Catholic children to Roman Catholic schools should they be oversubscribed in terms of catchment demand
 - Recognition of sufficient places in non-denominational schools
 - Importance of faith in Roman Catholic schools and for Roman Catholic children e.g. sacraments and gospel values
53. The overwhelming reason cited by the 1238 respondents agreeing with the proposal was that Roman Catholic children should be given priority to Roman Catholic schools in cases of oversubscription by pupils in their catchment area. It was cited by 70% of all respondents in favour of the proposal and in terms of statutory /non-statutory respondents agreeing with the proposal by 70% of statutory and 72% of non-statutory. Just fewer than 9% of all respondents in favour of the proposal mentioned the next two reasons listed above. There were a number of other reasons cited but these were expressed by significantly fewer respondents.
54. Whilst agreeing with the proposal just fewer than 30 of respondents mentioned that ERC should stop allowing placing requests. A few other concerns were intimated by those agreeing, but these were significantly fewer in number.
55. 71% of Our Lady of the Missions Parent Council and 76% of families they consulted (52% of their families responded) agreed with the proposal. They stated that there was a great deal of sympathy for those families who may be affected adversely by the proposal and hoped the transitional measures to secure entry to St Ninian's and the placing request priorities for siblings and associated schools will give significant protection.
56. The Parent Council also states that there is no wish to exclude other faiths or those of no faith, merely recognition that it is appropriate where the school is oversubscribed for Roman Catholic children to be admitted first. They also refer to the school's P1 intake of 120 pupils and of stabilising numbers in the coming years.
57. Our Lady of the Missions Parent Council notes that those who disagreed with the proposal wished the Council to extend transitional measures to siblings of children already in the school; and explore other prioritisation mechanisms to recognise to length of stay in the area and associated primary having higher status than late entrants to the catchment.
58. Our Lady of the Missions Parent Council highlighted other issues in their response including: after all East Renfrewshire children have been accommodated to give priority to Roman Catholic children in terms of entry to St Ninian's to the former two associated Glasgow primary schools and then to Roman Catholic children generally; concern over fraudulent registration of addresses and for the Council to take more action; seeking best value for the transitional accommodation measures required at St Ninian's and supporting improvements to the physical environment at St Ninian's.
59. 18 of the 20 members of the Parent Council of St Cadoc's who provided a response were in favour of the proposal. They noted that the proposal represented the best way forward without increasing denominational school provision; that their school community has a number of Muslim families who disagree with and are expressing concern over the proposal; and that it was deeply regrettable in their view that the approach would adversely affect some families and that the proposal is seen by some

in their community as divisive. They wished the Council to consider ways of helping to mitigate any adverse effects such as higher priority for siblings.

60. St Cadoc's Parent Council also advised that concern has been expressed over ensuring the validity of catchment residency. They made reference to seeking best value for the transitional accommodation measures required at St Ninian's and supporting improvements to the physical environment at St Ninian's. The Parent Council noted some parents, residing outwith the Council, expressed concern to them that they no longer had as high a priority to seek a place for their Catholic children to attend St Ninian's.
61. St Joseph's Parent Council conveyed their unanimous endorsement of the proposal. They stated that they recognised the value of children being exposed to all faiths and none and that this should be preserved if possible, but not ahead of priority for Roman Catholic children. Other points included their support for the proposal in that it helped manage school occupancy levels from not exceeding capacity; and their view that the transitional arrangements represent a fair approach for the children currently attending the school.
62. In support of the proposal St Ninian's Parent Council reported that the placing request order remains as detailed within the proposal; that arrangements are complied with; and that adequate resources are committed for St Ninian's to manage capacity-seeking best value for the transitional accommodation measures and supporting improvements to the physical environment. They also recorded the prejudicial effect on a significant minority (the 2 former associated Glasgow primary schools) where baptised Roman Catholic children have priority one in terms of placing requests to St Ninian's. They asked the Council to consider giving these children priority over other non-East Renfrewshire residents.
63. St Ninian's Parent Council trusted that the proposals should they be approved would provide a long term solution for the education of the Roman Catholic community; and they suggested that should there prove to be continued increased demand then a new Roman Catholic secondary school be established.
64. Woodfarm Parent Council also responded in support of the proposal as did the Scottish Catholic Education Service.
65. The Archdiocese of Glasgow and the Diocese of Paisley supported the proposal and both conveyed their joy that Catholic schools were inclusive and that their faith based education was sought by so many. The Archdiocese stated its full support for the proposal and to use evidence of baptism is a practical and proportionate step for prioritising admission to oversubscribed Catholic schools. The Archdiocese commended the authority for ensuring that under the proposal East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic schools will continue to serve the wider community. The Diocese of Paisley reported that it was happy to support the proposal and welcomed the use of Baptismal Certificates as a recognised and accepted testament of belonging to the Catholic Church. The Diocese noted that it was regrettable for those with an historic link to St Ninian's; nonetheless accepted that this is outwith its jurisdiction. The Diocese expressed concern over the pressure on accommodation at St Ninian's in the transitional years and urged the Council to be mindful of this and to seek best value for the transitional accommodation measures required at the school.
66. The aspects mentioned by the Parent Councils and by the Catholic Church are considered later in the report.

67. The main concerns and issues raised by all the 480 respondents who disagreed with the proposal can be paraphrased into the following reasons:
- Alleging the proposal is discriminatory
 - Consider there should be freedom to select any school
 - Generally disagree with the placing request priorities
 - Potential for siblings to be at different schools
 - Change placing request priorities to give higher priority to siblings
 - There should be no priority for Roman Catholic children to attend Roman Catholic schools
 - All schools should be non-denominational
68. These are also the main reasons expressed by the statutory respondents disagreeing with the proposal. Non-statutory respondents not in favour of the proposal had two main reasons for disagreeing; generally they disagreed with the placing request priorities and alleged the proposal is discriminatory.
69. The first three bullet points in paragraph 67 were the main reasons cited by respondents disagreeing with the proposal with 46%, 26% and 23% respectively. In terms of all 1718 responses these represent 13%, 7% and 6% respectively.
70. When commenting generally on placing request priorities, around 50 respondents mentioned disquiet over the impact for those in St Angela's and St Vincent's primary schools. The other reasons noted above for disagreeing with the proposal were mentioned by between 8% to 15% of all respondents not in favour of the proposal. There were a number of other reasons cited but these were expressed by significantly fewer respondents.
71. Although disagreeing with the proposal, 45 respondents agreed that there should be priority for Roman Catholic children to attend Roman Catholic schools should they be oversubscribed in terms of catchment demand.
72. St Angela's Parent Council reported that they entirely rejected the proposal, believe it to be deeply unjust and cite that it brings about a further major infringement for their children seeking a place in St Ninian's referring to previous consultations and their past association to St Ninian's. They consider that priority for Roman Catholic children in the East Renfrewshire associated schools and the two former Glasgow associated primary schools be given highest priority and asked why this was not undertaken at the time of the 2010 consultation.
73. One of the reasons stated in the consultation report on the 2010 proposal about St Ninian's was that any proposed solution must give East Renfrewshire Council the ability to plan effectively and manage pupil places at St Ninian's. Prior to that consultation's approval the whole delineated catchment area of St Ninian's was not under the control of East Renfrewshire Council, which had no say in the development of that part of the catchment in Glasgow. Should the St Angela's Parent Council suggestion of Roman Catholic children including the two Glasgow primary schools having the highest priority then East Renfrewshire Council would still not be in control of planning provision at St Ninian's. In addition the suggestion by St Angela's Parent Council would favour certain Glasgow residents over those East Renfrewshire residents residing in St Ninian's delineated catchment area who are not of the Roman Catholic faith and wish a faith based education for their children. The 2016

consultative proposal recognises that when a Roman Catholic school is oversubscribed by catchment then priority is given to Roman Catholic baptised children and then other East Renfrewshire children in the school's delineated catchment area. Other entry to the school is considered through the placing request process which enables the Council to manage places.

74. St Angela's Parent Council wish their current priority one status within the placing request criteria for St Ninian's to be preserved at least until St Ninian's is oversubscribed. The views by St Angela's Parent Council are perhaps understandable; however East Renfrewshire education authority is the administering body for its schools. The department seeks to put in place a consistent set of arrangements including placing request criteria to take effect from January 2017 to manage the intakes for all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and non-denominational schools. This helps manage intakes at primary schools and in subsequent years at associated secondary schools. The section on *Issues C and D* in paragraph 78 below further discusses the placing request matters.
75. St Angela's Parent Council was also concerned about the effect that the proposal would have on the whole of the school's community with residents not seeking to register for places in their school or relocating.
76. East Renfrewshire Muslim Forum responded and advises it represents the collective voice of the East Renfrewshire Muslim community comprising representatives from Woodfarm Education Centre, East Ren Centre Ltd and Iqra Learning Centre. They were not in favour of the proposal albeit supporting priority for the Roman Catholic community to Roman Catholic schools. They reported that many Muslim resident parents would like to send their children to a faith school and with no local state-funded Muslim school provision choose to send their children to Roman Catholic schools for a faith based education.
77. East Renfrewshire Muslim Forum suggested alternative order of priorities for managing school admissions in the event of oversubscription. This included giving priority two to siblings; and both criteria for siblings and associated primary school for entry for a S1 place having priority over the baptised Roman Catholic criterion for a place in a Roman Catholic school. This is discussed in paragraph 78 below under *Issue D*.

COMMENTS ON THE VIEWS EXPRESSED / ISSUES RAISED

78. The points recorded in paragraph 67 are noted below with comment.

A. Issue: Alleging the proposal is discriminatory

Discussion:

The most common reason mentioned by respondents disagreeing with the proposal was to allege that it was discriminatory for those of faiths other than Roman Catholic or having no faith in terms of seeking entry to a Roman Catholic school.

The proposal is entirely in keeping with the law; and in particular the Equality Act and associated guidance which recognises the position of faith schools as being set up primarily to serve those of that belief. This is rehearsed in the original consultative proposal document.

The authority understands that our families of no faith and other faiths, which in East Renfrewshire are primarily Muslim, also wish to attend Roman Catholic schools; and indeed our other schools. This would still remain the case under the proposal. Of all East Renfrewshire resident children declared as Muslim in our schools, 27% (official census 2015) attend a Roman Catholic school, which represents approximately 260 pupils across primary and secondary, and the majority (73%) attends non-denominational schools.

Under the proposed new arrangements all our schools would continue to be open to all pupils of all faiths and none. The possession of a Roman Catholic baptismal certificate is not a condition of entry to our Roman Catholic schools. It would simply be a factor in prioritising places in Roman Catholic schools in cases where the catchment is oversubscribed, as is legally allowed.

The department recognises that the consultation was an emotive issue for some members of the community. The authority is not excluding any group through the proposal but merely seeking to form arrangements to be able to prioritise places should a school be oversubscribed by catchment pupils, in an equitable and fair way recognising the place of Roman Catholic schools, which is also enshrined in statute. All East Renfrewshire schools would be open to all and continue to have an inclusive, supportive, tolerant and respectful ethos with a drive to help every child achieve and attain their very best.

The policy of prioritising Roman Catholic children for places in Roman Catholic schools is in operation in other local authorities. However East Renfrewshire would only invoke such should there be oversubscription in a school's delineated catchment area.

East Renfrewshire has a well-earned reputation for providing an excellent education in both its non-denominational and denominational schools and is not denying any group access to an excellent education. Our schools are noted for high levels of attainment and achievement and their inclusive nature. The authority appreciates that the diversity of our school communities has contributed to their success and Getting It Right For Every Child will continue to drive this success and is fundamental in delivering the department's vision of *Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences*.

An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken and this is attached as *Appendix E*.

B. Issue: Consider there should be freedom to select any school

Discussion:

Just over a quarter of respondents who disagreed with the proposal expressed the view that anyone should be able to attend any school, whether that is denominational or non-denominational.

As noted in the original consultative proposal document, the authority in framing the proposed new arrangements must adhere to legislative requirements and guidance associated with the management of school places, which includes ensuring sufficient pupil places for their resident population, maintaining denominational (Roman Catholic) school provision and the requirement that "every public school and every grant-aided school shall be open to pupils of all denominations". Best value, effective and efficient management of resources are other duties that councils must follow as administrators of the public purse.

As noted above, the possession of a Roman Catholic baptismal certificate is not a condition of entry to East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic schools. It would simply be a factor in prioritising places in these schools should the catchment be oversubscribed. The authority would not need to invoke the placing request prioritisation unless the school is oversubscribed by catchment children. As noted in the consultative proposal and reiterated at the various meetings, the authority expects there still to be places available for families of other faiths and none to be able to register at their catchment Roman Catholic school should they choose.

It is considered that the Council's proposal complies with these duties whilst seeking to maintain as much freedom as possible within the inevitably limited resources that it has available.

C. Issue: Generally disagree with the placing request priorities

Discussion:

Approximately 100 respondents who opposed the proposal noted their disagreement with the placing request priorities. In general no specific reasons were given other than around 50 who expressed concern over the impact for those in St Angela's and St Vincent's primary schools. In the responses only a very few cited their disquiet with according East Renfrewshire residents priority in terms of placing requests.

The current placing request priorities for St Ninian's High School have as the first criteria priority for children living in the catchment areas of St Angela's or the former St Louise's primary schools (now part of St Vincent's) who are baptised into the Catholic faith and attend either St Angela's, St Vincent's, St Cadoc's, St Joseph's or Our Lady of the Missions primary schools. Under the proposal this priority does not feature.

For a number of years there has been this priority as a consequence of changes to the two Glasgow primary schools being formerly associated with St Ninian's High School. Indeed two placing priorities were accorded at that time and the second of them has now elapsed. This was to afford priority to all other children living in the then catchment areas of the two schools for a period of time to session 2016-2017 (inclusive). These children had placing request priority to attend St Ninian's over all other children including those attending an associated East Renfrewshire primary through a placing request who resided in the St Ninian's delineated catchment area. Whilst that was the agreement at the time, East Renfrewshire parents have often cited this as unfair as part of the education appeals process.

East Renfrewshire education authority as the administering body must seek to manage places in the most effective and efficient way for its residents. Placing requests are only able to be granted if there are places available at the school after demand from the school's catchment is considered. As noted in the original consultative proposal document, no placing requests were able to be considered for entry to S1 in St Ninian's for August 2016. The proposed new arrangements for admissions and P7 to S1 transfers helps address pressure of demand from the school's delineated catchment area. It is considered that a reasonable time has elapsed since the two Glasgow primary schools were associated with St Ninian's and it is also opportune to revise the placing request priorities to give priority for each placing request criterion to East Renfrewshire residents except the sibling criterion.

The proposed new arrangements provide a consistent set of priorities for all East Renfrewshire non-denominational and Roman Catholic primary and secondary schools.

D. *Issue: Potential for siblings to be at different schools*

Issue: Change placing request priorities to give higher priority to siblings

There should be no priority for Roman Catholic children to attend Roman Catholic schools

Discussion:

These three reasons are considered together. Just over 70 respondents (mostly statutory respondents) who opposed the proposal noted their concern about having siblings in different schools. Just fewer than 70 respondents (the majority of whom were statutory respondents) who opposed the proposal thought that siblings should have higher priority within the placing request criteria. Around half of these approximately 70 respondents mentioned both aspects. Approximately 45 respondents not in favour of the proposal stated that there should be no priority for Roman Catholic children to attend Roman Catholic schools.

The sibling concern was mainly raised by those who already have a child enrolled at their local Roman Catholic catchment school and wished a younger sibling (not a baptised Roman Catholic) to attend in the future. Parents were concerned that the school would be oversubscribed by catchment demand and the younger sibling would not be able to gain a place. Under the proposal in the case of oversubscription the authority would invoke the placing request prioritisation and with priority for baptised Roman Catholic children not all other catchment children would get a registered place. If the younger child is unable to get a place in their local Roman Catholic school then they would be entitled to a place at the local non-denominational school.

The proposal includes transitional measures to honour commitments to pupils currently entitled (P1 to P7 2016-17 cohorts) under existing arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer to remain so.

As noted in the consultative proposal and reiterated at the various meetings, the authority expects there still to be places available for families of other faiths and none to be able to register at their catchment Roman Catholic school should they choose. The proposal puts in place a procedure to manage the situation should that not be possible. It is appreciated however that this is a source of anxiety for some. As noted under discussion over *Issue A* above, the place of Roman Catholic schools is enshrined by statute. The Council must maintain denominational (Roman Catholic) school provision.

Some of the respondents who suggested that siblings should have higher priority within the placing request criteria mentioned that the sibling criterion should have a higher priority over the baptised Roman Catholic criterion for a place in a Roman Catholic school. A number recognised the place of Roman Catholic schools and of Roman Catholic children having first priority right to attend. A number of secondary aged children who disagreed with the proposal noted that they wished their younger brother/sister to have the sibling priority to also help them gain entry to the same school. This was expressed by them in terms of transition and keeping families together in the same school being easier for families.

The Roman Catholic placing request criterion is only used should a Roman Catholic school be oversubscribed by catchment demand. It is not possible to afford priority over this criterion to siblings, since that could mean that not all baptised Roman Catholic children residing in the catchment would be able to attend their catchment Roman Catholic school. However it is now proposed that for a period of two years the placing request sibling criterion is given some higher priority.

Following feedback, it is also proposed to simplify and thereby help clarify the placing request order to be used in cases of oversubscription by catchment and separately for consideration of all other placing requests.

In the original consultative proposal (*Appendix A* of this document) Appendix 1B concerned 'Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire'. This detailed the order of placing requests in section 4 'How decisions are made'. This document has been revised to take account of the above and is shown in *Appendix G*.

The revised order of placing requests is shown as an appendix to *Appendix G* and provides discrete lists to be used in cases of oversubscription by catchment and separately for consideration of all other placing requests. The department has also taken the opportunity to use consistent wording for placing requests priorities one and two which would come into effect in cases of oversubscription by catchment. This is in reference to the child/ parent residing in the catchment to reflect the same meaning.

To reflect the change to give siblings a higher priority for a period of time, these two lists require to be shown for operation during two different time periods. There is the revised order of placing requests which places siblings higher than associated primary school for entry for places in sessions commencing August 2017 and August 2018. For the subsequent time period the order of placing requests then reverts to that initially proposed and is effective for school places for the period commencing August 2019 and beyond. The original priority order was initially proposed in recognition of the educational benefits of the time spent in an associated primary and of pupils' experiences in the associated cluster of schools. However in response to some concerns expressed there will be a two-year period before this aspect is applied.

E. Issue: All schools should be non-denominational

Discussion:

Around 40 respondents who opposed the proposal stated that all schools should be non-denominational.

As discussed above, the place of Roman Catholic schools is enshrined by statute. East Renfrewshire Council has a duty to maintain its Roman Catholic schools.

79. A concern raised at meetings about the proposal and by the Parent Councils of St Cadoc's and Our Lady of the Missions in their responses was the issue over claims of false residency particularly in light of the change in the local housing market and the move to more rental properties in the area.
80. In the original consultative proposal (*Appendix A* of this document) Appendix 1A provided the proposed arrangements in full for the admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary. Following feedback during the consultation it has been decided to further tighten these arrangements in terms of children's entitlement to attend a school in respect of their residence within the delineated catchment area of the school. The arrangements in full, as now revised to take account of this, are shown in *Appendix F*. Section 7.1 in *Appendix F*, 'Submission of information', stresses the importance of parents/carers providing full and correct information when applying for a place for their child(ren) and the steps that the Council will take to validate information and follow-up any concerns over residency. Such investigations take place before enrolment but also after enrolment.

81. The arrangements state that the Council will use all means available to it in order to investigate suspicions or allegations of fraud, including but not limited to, surveillance in cases where it is necessary and proportionate to do so. Any attempts to obtain a place by deception may result in the rescinding of a child's place in the school and the matter being passed to the Procurator Fiscal's office for consideration of criminal proceedings.
82. The department has also taken the opportunity to add a section (2.8 of *Appendix F*) to the arrangements on 'Applying for a catchment school place before being resident within the school's delineated catchment area'. This is to provide transparency for parents /carers on the process the department will adopt. There has also been a minor change to section 2.2 on deferred entry to make it clearer and section 3.1 to clarify the period from when placing requests for a new school session are accepted.
83. There have been a few other changes to 'Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire' (*Appendix G*). These are: inclusion of a statement on the front cover to bring readers attention to read the document in conjunction with *Appendix F*; addition of sub paragraph 2.2.3 which relates to placing request to remain and tightening of procedures concerning catchment residency referred to in paragraphs 79 to 81 above; and the addition of paragraph 3.10 for parents/carers about the means that they will get receipt of acknowledgements to their placing requests.

ALLEGED OMISSIONS AND INACCURACIES

84. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission within the consultative document, which has been either discovered by the Education Department or suggested by any other person. The Education Department would then determine if relevant information has been omitted or if there has been an inaccuracy and then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period as appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland would be advised. There were no such matters raised during the consultation period.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND (HMIE) AND RESPONSES OFFERED

85. In line with the requirements of the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended, a report was provided by Education Scotland in relation to the proposal.
86. The full report submitted by Education Scotland with regard to the proposal is provided as *Appendix D*. The department notes that Education Scotland has stated that "Overall, the council's proposal is of educational benefit..... would reduce the risk of oversubscription and resulting high occupancy rates in denominational schools."

87. The report reinforces educational benefits set out in the consultation paper:
- “The proposal to change the admissions policy will allow the council to fulfil its duty to provide education to children and young people who are baptised into the Roman Catholic Church in a denominational school, including when a school is oversubscribed”.
 - “The proposal will help reduce the risk of high occupancy rates and reduce the pressure on general purpose areas. It will enable the council to ensure best value on managing its estate. Potential capital investment can be reduced. Available resources can be directed more equitably. Timetabling of pupils, teachers and teaching spaces will be improved.”
88. HM Inspectors spoke to a number of stakeholders, and noted that the following were supportive of the proposal:
- Staff in denominational and non-denominational schools;
 - Parents, carers and Parent Council representatives;
 - A majority of children and young people from denominational and non-denominational schools; and,
 - The Scottish Catholic Education Service, the Archdiocese of Glasgow and the Diocese of Paisley.
89. From their discussions with stakeholders, Education Scotland also highlighted areas to be addressed such as:
- Implications for younger siblings, not of the Roman Catholic faith wishing to attend the same school;
 - The possible impact on the cultural diversity and the positive inclusive ethos this has on schools at present;
 - The use of temporary accommodation;
 - The possibility of those living outwith the council area with a sibling in an East Renfrewshire school not being able to gain access.
90. These issues were also brought up by respondents to the consultation and are addressed in paragraphs 78 to 83 above. Very few respondents other than pupils raised the use of temporary accommodation. Views from St Ninian’s pupils obtained as part of the consultation exercise undertaken by the consultants raised concern about over-crowding, the impact of the temporary accommodation even by way of interim arrangements and the existing facilities. The impact on the physical environment of St Ninian’s High School of high pupil numbers and seeking the best value from the resources provided for the temporary accommodation was mentioned by the Parent Councils of Our Lady of the Missions, St Cadoc’s and St Ninian’s and by the Diocese of Paisley.
91. In honouring the commitment to pupils currently entitled under existing arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer the Council will invest in additional accommodation. This is to increase the planning capacity of the school on a temporary basis and will include appropriate ancillary facilities such as toilets in addition to the teaching spaces. Once the transitional period is over we must revert to the accommodation required to meet the needs of the four associated primary schools and not for example leave St Ninian’s open to placing request challenge.

92. The Council has invested significantly in the physical environment of St Ninian's High School and recognises that resources are worked hard in high occupancy schools. The Council is aware that the educational built environment continues to evolve with for example newer school builds offering improved facilities, as did St Ninian's when its new extension first opened and it was one of the first schools in Scotland to have a large indoor 'street' area for social, dining, events etc. Financial resources are unavoidably tighter in the current economic climate; however the Council will continue to seek resources to improve the education estate.
93. As noted in the original consultative document, Council officers would look at the best value approach taking account of the Council's financial planning to establish the temporary accommodation in coordination with the school. Whilst being mindful of not increasing teaching spaces beyond that required to meet the needs of its agreed intake, addressing accommodation requirements and the use of resources made available will of course be taken forward in a holistic manner recognising where any improvements are needed.

EQUALITIES CONSIDERATIONS

94. In making this proposal an equalities impact assessment has been carried out and is provided as *Appendix E*.
95. The Council is aware of the Public Sector Equality Duty articulated in the Equality Act 2010 scheme which came into force on 6 April 2011. This provision requires that the Council in exercising its functions has regard to the need to:
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
96. The impact of the proposed policy on the arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary is assessed as high because it favours one faith group over all others and those of no faith. However it is not unlawful since the provision of Roman Catholic education is set out in statute.

PROCEDURES FOR MINISTERIAL CALL-IN

97. Under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended this proposal is not subject to ministerial call-in. As such the final decision on the proposal will be taken by East Renfrewshire Council's Education Committee, having due regard to the view of stakeholders expressed through the consultation exercise.

CONCLUSION

98. It is accepted that there is a need to address the increasing demand for places in certain schools, in particular Roman Catholic schools in the east of the Council area and the proposal to change the arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary school enables the Council to make more efficient and effective management of the school estate, provide sufficient places for its resident population and prioritise places for baptised Roman Catholic children in Roman Catholic schools whilst ensuring all schools remain open to all pupils.
99. The proposal was agreed by the majority of respondents. 54% of pupils (or 61% of schools) responding through the consultants' exercise agreed with the proposal, 57% of all other pupils and 73% of respondents other than pupils.
100. 8 of 11 groups who responded supported the proposal. Of these all but one statutory group agreed with the proposal. The groups who agreed comprised the Archbishop of Glasgow and the Diocese of Paisley for the Roman Catholic Church, Scottish Catholic Education Service and the parent councils of Our Lady of the Missions, St Cadoc's and St Joseph's primary schools, and of St Ninian's and Woodfarm high schools. St Angela's Parent Council was the statutory group that disagreed with the proposal. East Renfrewshire Muslim Forum was not in favour of the proposal albeit supporting priority for the Roman Catholic community to access Roman Catholic schools.
101. The Education Scotland report records that 'Overall, the council's proposal is of educational benefit..... would reduce the risk of oversubscription and resulting high occupancy rates in denominational schools'. They spoke to a number of stakeholders and noted support for the proposal and they also highlighted areas they considered required to be addressed. These have all been considered and discussed in this consultation report.
102. An important tenet of the proposal is that only in the event of oversubscription by catchment pupils would priority be given to baptised Roman Catholic children in Roman Catholic schools. East Renfrewshire prides itself on its inclusive values, practices and attitudes found in its educational establishments. We recognise that some families of other faiths and none seek places in Roman Catholic schools for a faith based education.
103. The Education Department recognises that the consultation was an emotive issue for some members of the community. The department will continue to engage with the local Muslim community on matters relating to education.
104. There were a number of suggestions for changes to the placing request priorities to help ameliorate the effects on siblings by the proposal. During the consultation concern was expressed about ensuring the validity of catchment residency. The 'Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools' and the associated guidance information on 'Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire' have now been revised to reflect these points and are attached as *Appendices F* and *G*. Both would come into force from January 2017 should the proposed arrangements as now revised be approved. Other minor changes to these documents have been made as described in paragraphs 82 and 83 above.

105. Taking full account of the views expressed during this consultation, the following recommendations are made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

106. It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- i. adopts the proposal with the revised 'Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools Effective from January 2017' as attached as *Appendix F* and the associated guidance information on 'Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire Effective from January 2017' attached as *Appendix G*; and,
- ii. approves that in so doing it includes transitional measures so that all pupils entitled to a place under the current admissions arrangements and enrolled by the end of December 2016 would continue to be so entitled, (which for St. Ninian's High School necessitates the provision of temporary accommodation).

107. In addition requests that the Director of Education continues to examine future educational provision in areas throughout the authority to ensure there are sufficient educational places according to future local planning processes and resultant new housing land supplies, other demographic changes and relevant modifications to the educational estate as a consequence of local/national educational policy.

Mhairi Shaw
Director of Education
November 2016

APPENDICES- CONTENT

- A. Original Consultative Document:**
Proposed Changes to the Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools Effective from January 2017
- B. Results of Consultation with Pupils:**
Prepared by Marie Kelly and Stuart Allison (External Consultants)
- C. Notes of the Public Meetings and Parent Councils**
- D. Education Scotland Report:**
Addressing educational aspects of the proposal by East Renfrewshire Council
- E. Equality Impact Assessment**
- F. Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools Effective from January 2017**
- G. Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire (Guidance Information and Application Form) Effective from January 2017**

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL : EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

THIS IS A FORMAL CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS AND THE
TRANSFER OF PUPILS FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY IN RESPECT OF ALL
EAST RENFREWSHIRE ROMAN CATHOLIC AND NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2017**

AUGUST 2016

This document has been issued by the Education Committee of East Renfrewshire Council for consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL : EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS AND THE TRANSFER OF PUPILS FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY IN RESPECT OF ALL EAST RENFREWSHIRE ROMAN CATHOLIC AND NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2017

Background

1. East Renfrewshire Education Department is committed to *Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences*, and has a well-earned reputation for providing an excellent education for children and young people. This is borne out in the reports received on our schools following inspection by Education Scotland. This success has contributed to a growth in the number of pupils in our schools.
2. A number of our schools have high occupancy levels. The Council paper 'Planning for the Future of East Renfrewshire' includes this information <http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/planningforthefuture>. Schools can have high occupancy levels as a consequence of demand from their delineated catchment areas and/or through places being allocated through the placing request process from parents of pupils resident outwith the schools' delineated catchment areas.
3. Pupil numbers in a school's delineated catchment area can increase through, for example, additional residential development and inward migration to existing housing. The Council has expanded provision where the number of pupils in a school has increased because of growth in demand from its catchment causing pressure on the school's places.
4. There continues to be an increase in the number of pupils attending schools in the east of the Council area (Eastwood area), particularly those pupils following a denominational (Roman Catholic) education. Officers have examined pupil numbers in the context of available places in both denominational (Roman Catholic) and non-denominational sectors.
5. East Renfrewshire Council adopted a policy in October 2001 to manage pupil places, especially at the point of transition from primary to secondary schools and specifically to manage the numbers of pupils, mainly in the east of the authority, seeking to move from the non-denominational primary sector to St. Ninian's High School. The 'cross sector policy' meant that parents and pupils were required to commit to a sector when they started primary school and thereafter retained an entitlement to be schooled in that sector throughout both primary and secondary education. Although this policy has on the whole allowed the department to manage pupil places it has for a number of years had an impact on pupil places in the denominational (Roman Catholic) primary sector.
6. To ensure the Council met its duties to make provision for its resident population, the Council undertook a statutory (Education) consultation in 2010-11 to define the delineated catchment and in effect reduce the number of associated primary schools with St. Ninian's High School. This consultation resulted in new admission arrangements for St. Ninian's High School.
7. To address an increasing demand for school places the Council recently took the decision to expand denominational (Roman Catholic) primary provision in the east of the authority and from August 2017 St. Clare's Primary School will be in operation. St. Clare's will be part of the faith schools' joint campus £18.2m investment.

8. The Council has managed to provide a school place for its resident population to date and has always managed to provide a Roman Catholic education to those East Renfrewshire families who wish that for their child(ren).
9. Calderwood Lodge Primary School currently has different admissions arrangements to all other East Renfrewshire schools whereby all admissions must be made by a placing request; and East Renfrewshire pupils are entitled to transfer to Mearns Castle High School for secondary education. This consultation does not make any change to this school's admissions arrangements; these will remain the same.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

10. To consult on proposed changes for all East Renfrewshire denominational (Roman Catholic) and non-denominational primary and secondary schools to :
 - i) the admissions arrangements; and
 - ii) arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school,all to take effect from January 2017.
11. The proposed changes would provide clarity on the authority's proposed arrangements to address oversubscription by pupils from the school's delineated catchment area to any denominational (Roman Catholic) and non-denominational primary and secondary school. In particular, to clarify that priority would be given to baptised Roman Catholic pupils residing in a school's catchment in the event that a Roman Catholic school is oversubscribed.

INTRODUCTION

Current School Provision and Arrangements for Admissions and P7-S1 Transfer

12. East Renfrewshire's current school provision and arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer are underpinned by legislative requirements and guidance associated with the management of school places including:
 - i. the duty to provide adequate and efficient provision of school education for their area and by implication to ensure sufficient pupil places for their resident population;
 - ii. the requirement that "every public school and every grant-aided school shall be open to pupils of all denominations";
 - iii. the general principle that children should be educated in line with the parents' wishes;
 - iv. the requirement that all admissions must comply with class size legislation and national staffing agreements;
 - v. the right of parents to express a preference for a particular school that they want their child to attend by submitting a placing request, which an authority must grant if places are available in the school unless there is a valid legal reason not to do so;
 - vi. maintaining denominational (Roman Catholic) school provision; and
 - vii. the Technical Guidance for Schools in Scotland produced by the Equality and Human Rights Commission to accompany the Equality Act 2010 which explicitly provides that "The only area where education authorities can discriminate on

- religious grounds in relation to pupil admission is in their criteria for accepting placing requests.” (para 2.33).
13. East Renfrewshire operates a catchment policy where every address in the authority is associated with a primary and secondary school in both the denominational (Roman Catholic) and non-denominational sectors. At present East Renfrewshire asks parents/carers to commit to the denominational (Roman Catholic) or non-denominational sector on entry to primary school. This is then the route planned for their child(ren) when transferring to secondary school. In this way, those who exhibit in practice a longstanding conviction to have their child schooled in the faith environment of a Roman Catholic school are able to do so. A change of sector requires a placing request to be submitted.
 14. Placing requests are only considered for any remaining available places after ‘catchment pupils’ are accommodated and are granted unless there is a valid legal reason not to do so.
 15. Since the inception of East Renfrewshire Council, ensuring that there are sufficient school places has been a main driver for change in the school estate. It is evident that the educational estate has been developed to date to ensure there is sufficient school capacity in accordance with residential developments within East Renfrewshire’s current and previous Local Plans.

PRESENT POSITION

16. The Scottish Government requires that a census is carried out in all schools at a specific point each year. This is the officially recognised time period to record pupil and staff numbers. It informs funding and is used to compare annual variations. Schools’ populations are dynamic and slight variations in the number of pupils during any one school session are to be expected.

Primary School Pupil Numbers and Provision

17. The number of pupils attending schools in the east of the Council area, particularly those pupils following a denominational (Roman Catholic) education has been increasing. Residential development has contributed to increased pupil numbers.
18. *Charts 1 and 2* below show that primary school rolls have been increasing in the east of the Council area as a consequence of a rise in the local population. The greatest increase has been in the denominational (Roman Catholic) sector where the number of families choosing this route for their child’s education has increased by over one fifth. The increase has been just over 6% for other primary schools in the east of the authority. As expected, places available for acceptance through the placing request process to families residing outwith East Renfrewshire has decreased in both sectors as ‘catchment demand’ increases.
19. Of all primary schools in the east of the authority, 29.3% of the total roll was in denominational (Roman Catholic) schools in 2015. This has increased by 3.5% since 2009.
20. There are a number of schools in the east of the authority that have high occupancy levels and this must be considered as ‘catchment demand’ increases and new residential development comes to fruition.

Chart 1

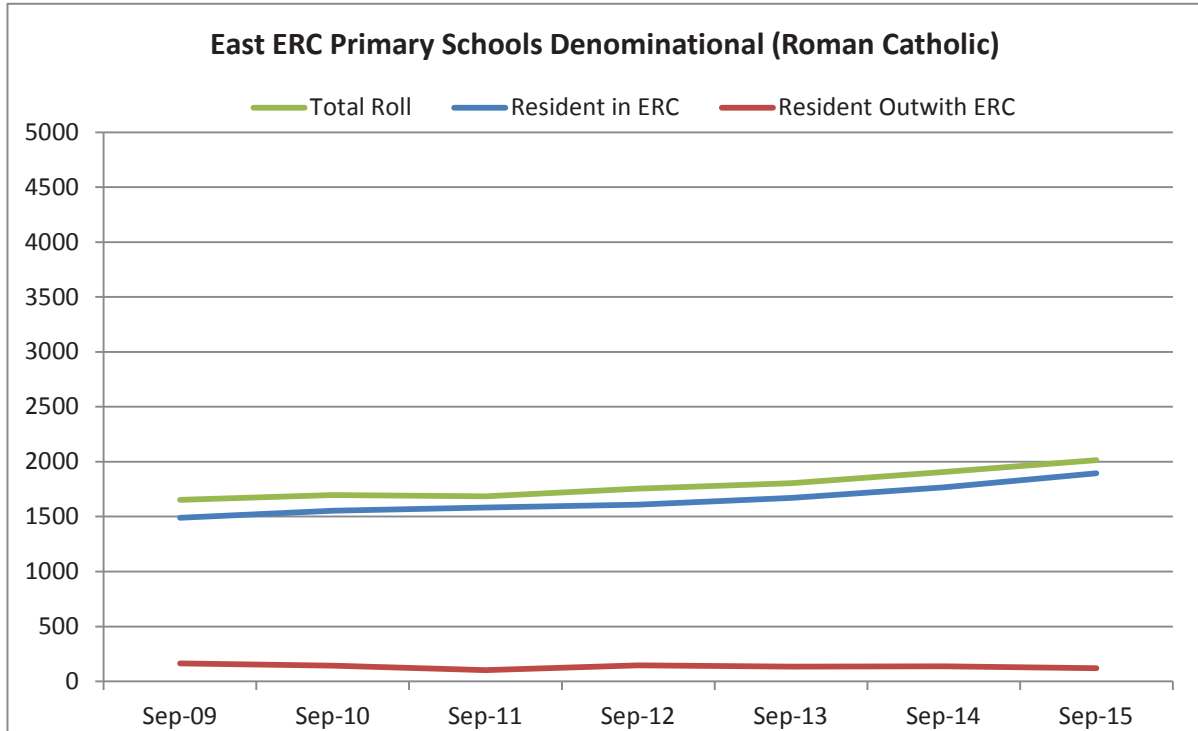
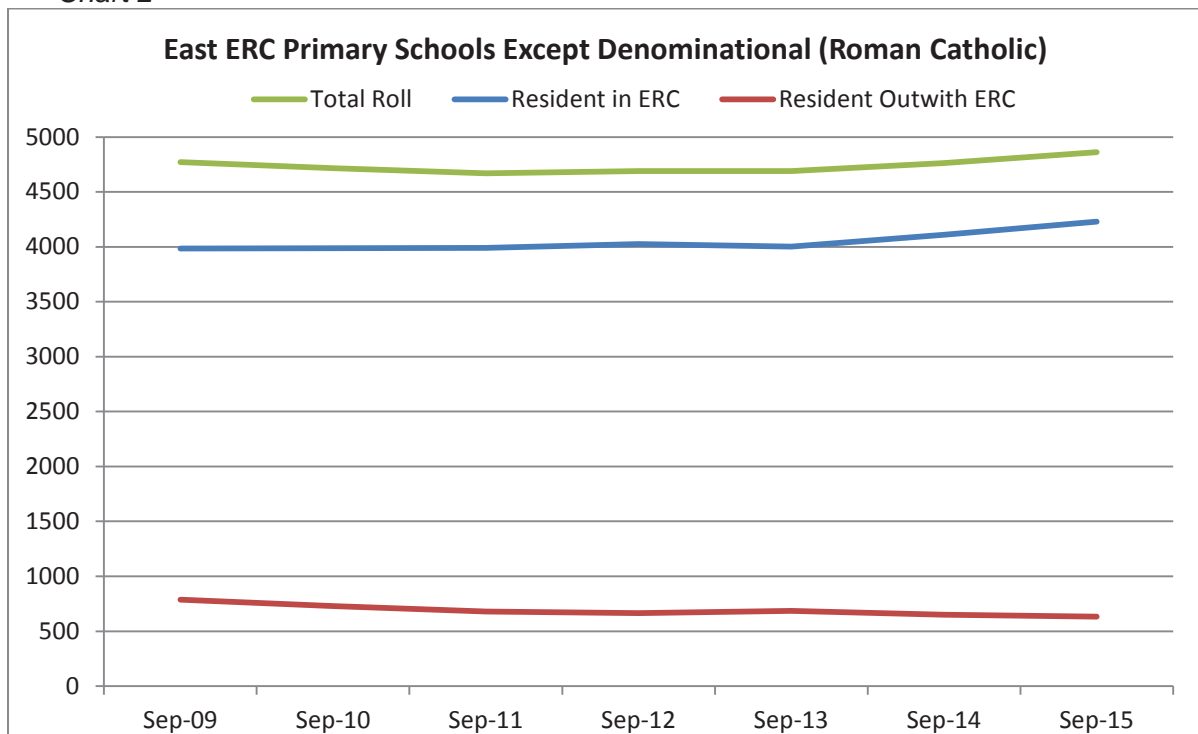


Chart 2



21. *Charts 3 and 4* below show the change in the primary school rolls in the west of the Council area (Levern Valley area), which shows a decrease in the non-denominational sector by around 5% and a 9% increase in the denominational (Roman Catholic) sector; this movement is equivalent to approximately 50 to 60 pupils. There is capacity in schools in the west in both the non-denominational and Roman Catholic sectors.

22. Of all primary schools in the west of the authority, 38.7% of the total roll was in denominational (Roman Catholic) schools in 2015. This has increased by 3.1% since 2009.

Chart 3

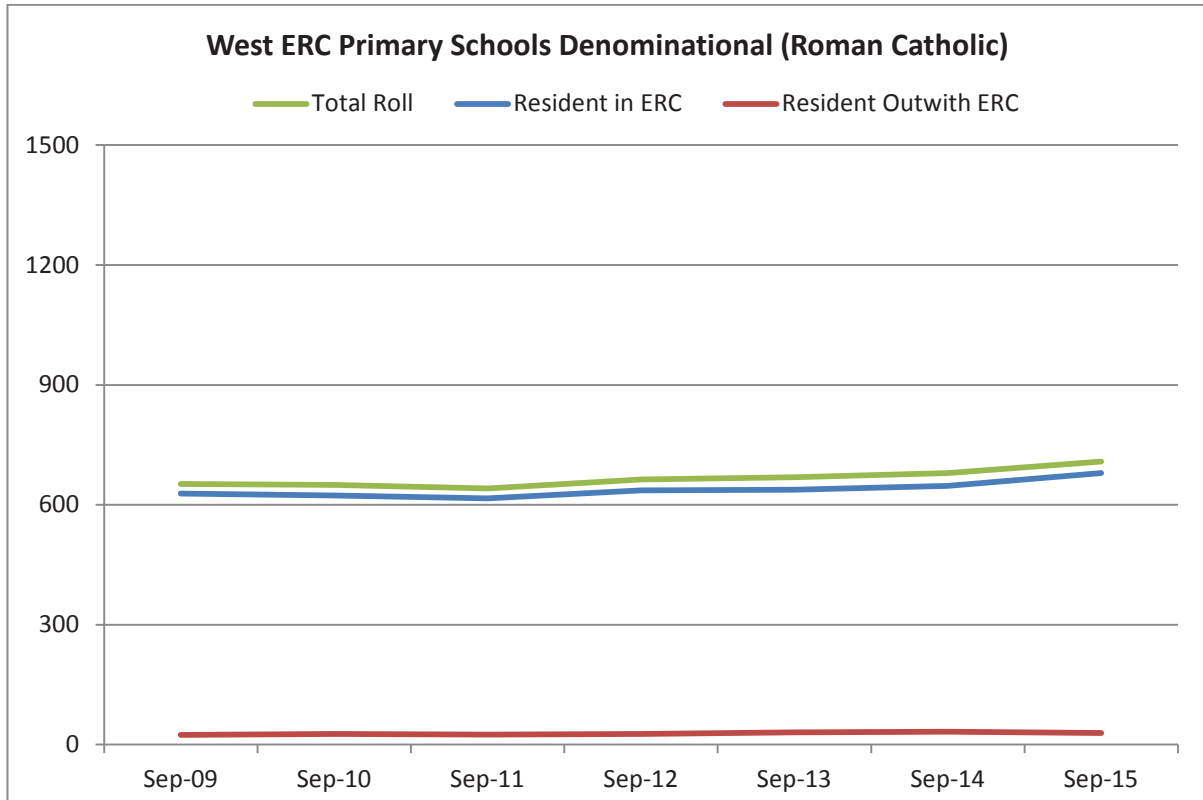
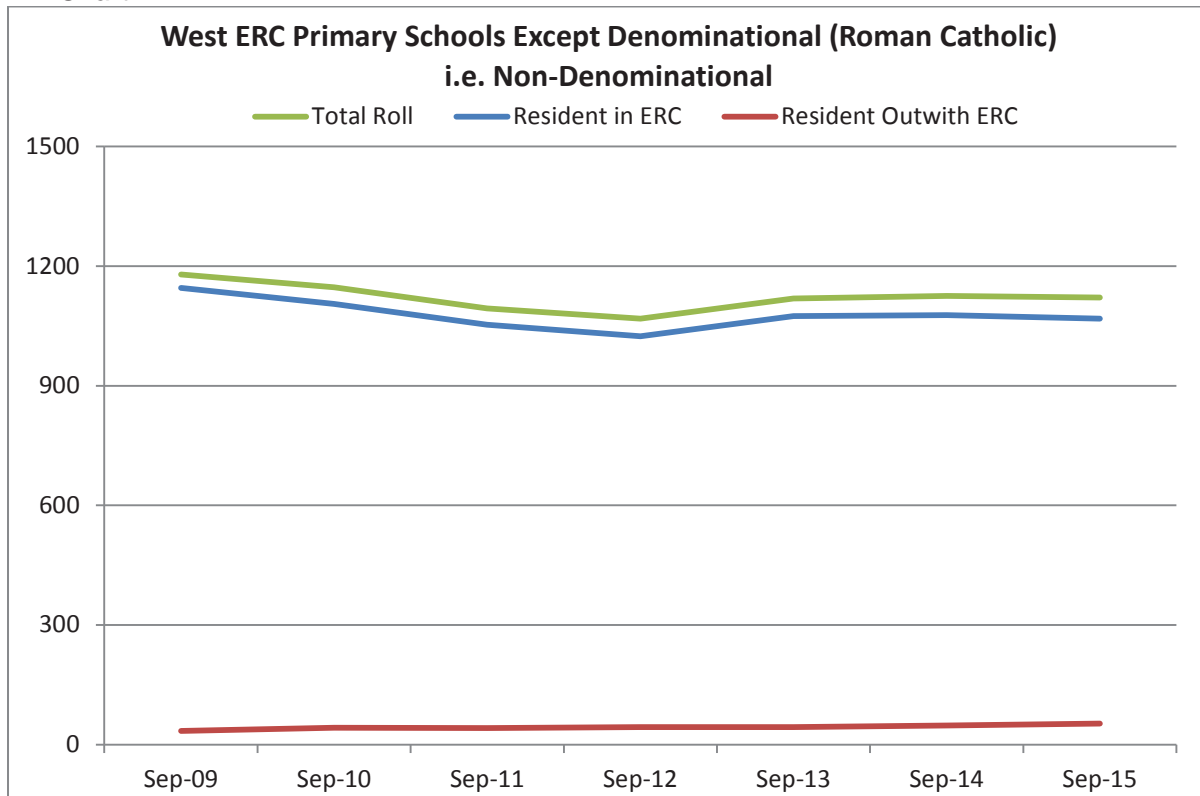


Chart 4



23. The P1-intake is the key cohort in the primary sector that informs future demand and provision. *Table 1* below shows the number of pupils on the P1 roll and the number of them who were East Renfrewshire residents from 2009 to 2015 (including the anticipated August 2016 data). Information is shown separately for the east and west of the Council area and by denominational sector.

Table 1

Primary Schools	P1 Pupils	Sep-09	Sep-10	Sep-11	Sep-12	Sep-13	Sep-14	Sep-15	Aug-16 (Anticipated)
East PS: Denom (Roman Catholic)	Roll	259	219	238	260	258	291	316	314
	of which ERC Residents	250	198	221	245	247	283	316	306
East PS: Except Denom (RC)	Roll	669	610	608	651	609	650	692	696
	of which ERC Residents	582	551	514	564	529	584	637	631
West PS: Denom (Roman Catholic)	Roll	107	87	85	101	94	111	110	92
	of which ERC Residents	103	83	83	98	89	108	106	91
West PS: Except Denom (RC) i.e. ND	Roll	165	150	169	156	194	139	153	143
	of which ERC Residents	163	140	160	149	187	133	145	134

Note: Anticipated August 2016 data is as expected at June 2016 and not the official September census information not yet available.

24. The data in *Table 1* again demonstrates a general increase over the years in primary pupil numbers in the east of the authority; however the latest 2016 data shows a slight decrease in the P1 East Renfrewshire numbers. In the west, the P1 numbers in Roman Catholic schools tend to fluctuate around 100; and except for a spike in 2013-14 (Sep-13) there has been a general decrease in the P1 numbers in the non-denominational schools.
25. Under current arranged provision the P1-intake capacity numbers that the authority could plan for is:

Table 2

Planned P1-Intake Capacity			
East PS: Denom (Roman Catholic)	East PS: Except Denom (RC)	West PS: Denom (Roman Catholic)	West PS: Except Denom (RC) i.e. ND
300	774	132	252

26. These are the maximum numbers that the authority considers for planning purposes for 'catchment demand,' in the context of current arranged provision, i.e. available places and arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer. However in cases where 'catchment demand' exceeds a school's planned P1-intake, the capacity can be greater

provided additional measures are taken such as ensuring the pupil: teacher ratio/teaching class size limit is maintained and there is physical space (classrooms, toilet numbers etc.). East Renfrewshire would only rely on such measures to accommodate high spikes in a school's 'catchment demand' or as an interim measure until a permanent solution is adopted in cases where there is sustained evidence that 'catchment demand' is clearly increasing.

27. Examining the P1 numbers in *Table 1* against the planned P1-intakes in *Table 2*, it can be seen that there is space in all schools except in Roman Catholic schools in the east of the Council area; and that pupil numbers over recent years in the non-denominational sector in the east are becoming closer to the P1-intake capacity. In the east of the authority 'catchment pupils' have been accommodated within the denominational P1-intake capacity for all years up to and including 2014. However additional P1 classes were required to accommodate 2015 'catchment pupils' and whilst the number of P1 'catchment pupils' expected in 2016 is slightly lower they are still above the planned P1-intake capacity.
28. The P1-intake (and so the overall planning capacity) has been increased to accommodate increased 'catchment demand' from families choosing a Roman Catholic route for their child(ren)'s education. Our Lady of the Missions Primary School (OLM) has been extended to 4-streams and a new denominational (Roman Catholic) primary school, St. Clare's, is to open in August 2017 as part of the faith schools' joint campus to address increased demand from the existing delineated catchment area of St. Cadoc's Primary School.
29. St. Clare's Primary School and a new non-denominational primary school were both planned as part of the infrastructure requirement of the Local Development Plan, with St. Clare's to be completed earlier and the non-denominational primary to open for August 2019. The site for the new non-denominational primary is in Maidenhill and a consultative proposal will be considered at a future Education Committee that will aim to increase capacity to meet projected demand.
30. The investment was expected to meet the demand from East Renfrewshire families in the east of the Council area choosing a Roman Catholic route for their child(ren)'s education. This has proved sufficient based on the average of around 30% of the P1 resident cohort opting for this route. However in recent years this has increased averaging 33% resulting in further pressure on places.
31. The evidence now indicates that in the east of the Council area the planned P1-intake capacity is insufficient under current arranged provision for East Renfrewshire families choosing a Roman Catholic route for their child(ren)'s education. In particular 'catchment demand' at OLM Primary School over the last couple of years has reached 125 in 2015 and 150 for 2016 compared to a planned P1-intake of 120 pupils.

Some Factors Affecting Changes in School Numbers

32. The impact from additional residential development and inward migration to existing housing are significant factors contributing to the increase in pupil numbers in schools' delineated catchment areas; but other factors also appear to be contributing to the increase in the number of families choosing the Roman Catholic sector for their child(ren)'s education.
33. There is recent new residential development established, currently being built and planned over the coming years in the east of the Council area. In terms of

denominational (Roman Catholic) primary schooling this is almost all in the existing delineated catchment area of St. Cadoc's Primary School. A small number affects the delineated catchment area of St. Joseph's Primary School and there is very little in the delineated catchment area of OLM Primary School.

34. The 'Planning for the Future of East Renfrewshire' document contains information from the 2011 population census. It notes that the highest proportion of the East Renfrewshire population live in the east of the Council area (73%). The population in the west of the Council area decreased by 1% from 2001 to 2011 while the population in the east increased by 2.1% during the same period.
35. Most of this population growth has been concentrated in Newton Mearns (5.9 per cent), Clarkston and Williamwood (1.45%) and Thornliebank (1.02%). The population declined in Uplawmoor (although overall population numbers are small), Giffnock and Barrhead.
36. The East Renfrewshire population is expected to grow by a further 5.4 per cent by 2025.
37. From population statistics very high levels of inward migration have been seen in the 0-15 and 30-40 years age groups. There is a rise in supply of new types of housing for older people encouraging a move away from larger homes. Changing population graphics show older people leaving family homes and families moving in with a consequential increase in the school age population.
38. Information from the census on religion shows that 22% of people stating that they were Roman Catholic increased by 1.5% between 2001 and 2011. By Council ward, the highest proportion of people identified as Roman Catholic is located in Barrhead; and wards with the largest increases in the Roman Catholic population include Giffnock and Thornliebank and Netherlee, Stamperland and Williamwood.
39. Colleagues in housing have provided some information on housing patterns and trends. There has been a marked increase in private rented sector properties across East Renfrewshire from 2011 to 2016. The largest increases are found in the areas of Clarkston/Busby and Thornliebank where there have been increases of 60% and 80% respectively with a high number of the properties being suitable accommodation for families. Looking at the movement in housing ownership or tenancy shows that the highest level of change in the last couple of years is in the areas of Giffnock North and Thornliebank. The areas of Giffnock and Thornliebank are in the OLM delineated catchment area.

Secondary School Pupil Numbers and Provision: St. Ninian's High School

40. Over many years St. Ninian's High School has experienced very high occupancy levels. In 2011 the Education Committee approved changes to the school's admissions arrangements to reduce its delineated catchment area and number of associated primary schools. It also changed priorities for granting placing requests to the school as a means to better plan and manage places at the school for East Renfrewshire residents. St. Ninian's High School has also been extended to meet 'catchment demand'.
41. Whilst the occupancy levels at St. Ninian's continue to remain high, *Table 3* below shows that there is a large percentage of pupils attending from outwith the Council area.

Table 3

Year	St. Ninian's High School: Pupils Outwith ERC as % Total Roll
Sep-09	28%
Sep-10	28%
Sep-11	28%
Sep-12	27%
Sep-13	27%
Sep-14	26%
Sep-15	25%

+ Based on the September census reflecting current placement status of pupils and current delineated catchment area

Over the period from 2009 to 2015 the number of 'catchment pupils' at St. Ninian's has increased by 75. Up to 2015 we have been able to accommodate 'catchment pupils'. Of the total roll in 2015, over 450 pupils resided outwith East Renfrewshire.

42. Just as the P1-intake is the key cohort in the primary sector that informs future demand and provision, the S1-intake is the key group in the secondary sector. It has always been possible to accommodate S1 'catchment pupils' in all secondary schools under current managed provision. However that has not been possible for the current August 2016 S1 intake to St. Ninian's. The August 2016 S1 intake will be at its maximum of 300 pupils and for the first time we require to re-direct a number of pupils to alternative schools in the area.
43. For session 2016-17 the school is oversubscribed at S1 with catchment pupils under current managed provision. Although the school has in the past been able to accommodate 320 pupils as an exceptional year group, there is no longer the physical space to accommodate another intake class. Should available places/admissions arrangements remain the same, this situation will re-occur in future years given that entitled pupil intakes in the associated primaries are, for school sessions 2015-16 and 2016-17, exceeding the planned P1-intakes.
44. In addition to the growth in 'catchment numbers' at the associated primary schools, the changes in residential development and the nature of the housing stock and the number of families choosing a Roman Catholic route for their child(ren)'s education obviously affects pupil numbers for St. Ninian's High School.
45. Whilst evidence shows that there are still spaces available in St. Ninian's to meet 'catchment demand' over the medium term, the growth now seen in its associated primary schools from 'catchment pupils' will impact on future intakes to St. Ninian's High School as well as exert pressure on primary accommodation under current arranged provision should the pattern over the last few years continue.
46. Despite investment to increase the number of Roman Catholic places in primary and secondary schools, and a change in admissions arrangements for St. Ninian's High School, the demand for places continues as more East Renfrewshire families are choosing a denominational (Roman Catholic) education for their child(ren). The current numbers of available places and/or the admissions arrangements require to change to ensure sufficient pupil places, offer a denominational education to Roman Catholic families and satisfy local demand. Any change must take account of relevant legislation and effective and efficient management of resources.

Options

47. To address these issues the Council has explored a number of alternative approaches; however has determined that they are not, for a variety of reasons viable. These are outlined below.

Option A: Do Nothing

48. Doing nothing is clearly not an option, since the Council would be failing amongst other things in complying with its duty to provide sufficient pupil places according to its current school provision and admissions arrangements.

Option B: Extend Existing School Provision- Additional Places

49. This option concerns extending the existing Roman Catholic schools to accommodate the projected pupil numbers based on the existing admissions arrangements.
50. St. Ninian's and its associated primary schools have all already been extended to meet 'catchment demand' and the primary schools grounds are not large enough to accommodate additional accommodation to meet the anticipated future pupil numbers.
51. Our Lady of the Missions is already a 4-stream school with its P1-intake for August 2016 at 5-stream under current admissions arrangements. Even if there were a larger site, extending the school to a full 5-stream provision would not ideally be considered for a primary school, which has already been extended several times.
52. There is a planned reduction for St. Cadoc's to reduce to a 2-stream school once the new primary school, St. Clare's, is established. There are plans for part of the school to be remodelled to provide for new preschool provision for August 2019 contributing to the expansion of early learning and childcare (EL&CC) (subject to separate consultation). Instead of establishing the nursery, the school could maintain 3-stream places. However this would impede plans for the Council to meet EL&CC statutory commitments.
53. Increasing the number of places in its associated primary schools for 'catchment pupils' will also impact on future S1-intakes and capacity at St. Ninian's High School. Accordingly either a new extension would be required at St. Ninian's or a change to its existing associated primary schools. For the latter this could involve associating one of the existing associated primaries with St Luke's High School in the west of the Council area, albeit an extension is likely to be required for this given the known planned residential development in St Luke's delineated catchment area. Such an association was considered many years ago by a former council and was met with resistance.
54. By increasing the number of classes to accommodate 'catchment pupils', and given the popularity of the schools, any remaining available places would inevitably be taken up through the placing request process thereby ultimately exacerbating pressure on places.
55. Notwithstanding practicalities there would necessarily be a time period before any new possible building extensions came to fruition and additional financial resources would need to be identified to take this forward. The Council would also need to consider the cost effectiveness of this option in terms of best value and public accountability given there are other options and space currently available across its wider school estate.

Option C: Build New School Provision- Additional Places

56. This option concerns building new Roman Catholic school(s) to accommodate the projected pupil numbers based on the existing arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer.
57. A new Roman Catholic primary school, St. Clare's is under construction to open for August 2017 to address 'catchment demand' in the delineated catchment areas of St. Cadoc's.
58. Building a further new primary school would require a suitable site, additional financial resources and a period of time before the new build came to fruition. Establishing a new school is subject to statutory consultation, as is defining its delineated catchment area. This process necessarily reduces the delineated catchment areas of at least one other existing primary school and also involves consultation in that respect.
59. Any new primary school would need to have an associated secondary school. At present all existing Roman Catholic primary schools in the east of the Council area are associated with St. Ninian's High School including from session 2017-18 St. Clare's as approved by Education Committee in 2015 following a statutory consultation.
60. The delineated catchment area of St. Ninian's High School is currently as defined in the consultation approved by Education Committee in March 2011 and in effect comprises the whole of the east of the Council area (residing in this area is one condition for first priority right to attend St. Ninian's).
61. Maintaining the current admissions arrangements and building new primary provision to cope with increased pupil numbers would impact on St. Ninian's High School. Either a new extension would be required at St. Ninian's or a change to the existing associated primary schools. For the latter this could involve associating any new primary or one of the existing associated primaries with St Luke's High School in the west of the Council area. In the past association with St Luke's was not a favoured option and if now considered, would likely require an extension at St Luke's since its existing capacity is required to meet the needs from known planned residential development in its delineated catchment area.
62. An alternative would be to reduce the delineated catchment area of St. Ninian's and the number of its associated primary schools and establish another Roman Catholic secondary school in the east of the Council area. The Roman Catholic primary schools in the east of the Council area would then be associated with St. Ninian's or the new Roman Catholic secondary school subject to consultation.
63. However as shown above, based on the most up to date information the additional places required to meet 'catchment demand' alone do not justify a new secondary school. A secondary school has to be of reasonable size to deliver an appropriate curriculum. The new secondary school would not be operationally viable unless supplemented with additional pupils from rezoning some of St. Ninian's existing associated primary schools to the new school.
64. At St. Ninian's this would reduce the number of 'catchment pupils' and could result in more places being available through the placing request process unless existing accommodation was remodelled to remove teaching spaces and so reduce the school's capacity. This would also require funding and would appear obscure given at the same time a new secondary school would be built as part of this option.

65. Identifying viable sites for new schools is particularly challenging in parts of the authority and has resultant financial costs. New school provision is not inexpensive and again has to be well considered in terms of best value and public accountability given there is another option and currently space available across the wider school estate.
66. The above options (A to C) are not considered viable and the following section describes the preferred approach that will form the consultative proposal.

PROPOSAL

67. To consult on the proposal to:
- i. change arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary in respect of all Roman Catholic and non-denominational primary and secondary schools effective from January 2017 as attached in *Appendix 1*; and,
 - ii. include transitional measures so that all pupils entitled to a place under the current admissions arrangements and enrolled by the end of December 2016 would continue to be so entitled, (which for St. Ninian's High School necessitates the provision of temporary accommodation).

Change Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary

68. This concerns changing admissions arrangements to give priority to baptised Roman Catholic pupils residing in a school's catchment in the event that a Roman Catholic school is oversubscribed by pupils from its delineated catchment area. Roman Catholic schools would still be open to pupils of all denominations and none. Paragraphs 69 to 87 describe in outline the proposed arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary and *Appendix 1* provides a copy of the proposed arrangements in full.
69. Every address in East Renfrewshire is associated with a Roman Catholic and non-denominational primary and secondary school. These are referred to as local schools. There are two main application periods: application for a P1 place in January for a place in the school session commencing August of the same year; and application for an S1 place in December for a place in the school session commencing the following August. This is termed the normal placing round.
70. Families apply for a registered place for their child(ren) at the P1 and S1 stage to be considered for entry to the next school session starting in August. This application process is described below in more detail. For East Renfrewshire residents wishing a school place outwith the normal placing round for P1 and S1, and also for places at any other stage (P2 - P7 and S2 - S6) throughout the year, parents/carers make an application for their child(ren) for a place in their local catchment school which will be processed according to the availability of places at that stage at that time. If there are not any places available at that stage at that time, then in negotiation with parents/carers, children will be redirected to attend an appropriate school with the Council providing transport until a place becomes available in their requested catchment school.
71. A change of school at any stage (P1 - S6) throughout the year requires a placing request. Placing requests should be made by 31 January of the year the parent/carer

wishes their child(ren) to start attendance. Placing requests received after the 31 January may be considered after decisions are made for requests received by the due date.

72. There are sound educational reasons for trying to ensure that the transfer or admission of children to a school takes place at the start of a school session. Most placing requests are made at this point for pupils to change school at the start of a new school session. However it is accepted that there will be circumstances when a placing request will be made for a pupil to change school during a school session. In such cases, requests will be considered in the order in which they are received.
73. Once children attend an East Renfrewshire primary/secondary school they are entitled to continue their education in that primary/ secondary school unless the family's circumstances change e.g. they subsequently move outwith the school's delineated catchment area. In this situation the parent/carer will require to submit a placing request to remain which usually will be granted; for details please refer to *Appendix 1*.

P1 Places

74. East Renfrewshire families apply for a P1 place for their child(ren) in either the local Roman Catholic or non-denominational primary school in their delineated catchment area. Where there are sufficient places all those children will be given a place to register at the school they have chosen. The child(ren) will then be entitled to enrol in the school unless the family's circumstances change e.g. they subsequently move outwith the school's delineated catchment area.
75. The Council aims to provide enough places for all children to attend their local (delineated catchment area) school. A school is oversubscribed in terms of 'catchment demand' when applications from families seeking a P1 place for their child(ren) in their selected delineated catchment area school exceed the available places. In such instances all such applications will be deemed placing requests. These placing requests will then be processed according to the proposed priority order shown in *Appendix 2*. Those placing requests having priority over others will be granted up to the number of available places and those child(ren) given a place and so entitled to enrol in the school unless the family's circumstances change e.g. they subsequently move outwith the school's delineated catchment area.
76. For application for a place in their Roman Catholic catchment school, evidence of a Roman Catholic baptismal certificate will be used to show that the pupil is considered as having the highest priority. It is only in a case of over-subscription from within the delineated area that Roman Catholic baptised catchment children will be given priority to their local Roman Catholic school. Children not allocated a P1 place at the Roman Catholic primary will be considered with other children applying for a P1 place at their local non-denominational primary school.
77. Should a family wish instead to request a P1 place for their child(ren) at a school other than one of their local schools, then they can do so via the placing request process. Families will be asked at the time of P1 application to nominate an alternative school to be considered should their chosen local school be oversubscribed.
78. Once registered P1 places have been allocated for the school session commencing August of that year and where appropriate and possible, the authority will reserve a reasonable number of places for pupils moving into each school's delineated catchment area during the school year. Thereafter any remaining places will be available for

consideration under the placing request process. The placing requests will be processed according to the proposed priority order shown in *Appendix 2*.

79. In recognition that East Renfrewshire is the population we have responsibility to provide education for, the proposal would provide placing request priority to East Renfrewshire residents except for cases involving siblings. It is also proposed that when applying for secondary schools, children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school will accord priority over siblings in terms of placing requests. This aligns with Curriculum for Excellence where we wish to plan for continuity and progression in learning throughout the years 3-18.
80. All P1 children will be advised of their registered school place by 30 April each year.

S1 Places

81. The proposed process for applying for a S1 place is similar. In December parents/carers of P7 pupils in East Renfrewshire primary schools will receive a letter informing them of the application process for secondary school. It will be assumed that for East Renfrewshire families, the secondary school place that their child(ren) will apply to is their local secondary school of the same denomination as the primary school their child(ren) currently attends. The secondary school is deemed their designated local secondary school. Where there are sufficient places all those children will be given a place to register at their designated local secondary school. The child(ren) will then be entitled to enrol in the school unless the family's circumstances change e.g. they subsequently move outwith the school's delineated catchment area.
82. For families residing outwith East Renfrewshire a pupil transferring from P7 to S1 will need to make a placing request to be considered for a place at any East Renfrewshire secondary school.
83. As is the case for primary school places, the Council aims to provide enough places for all children to attend their designated local secondary school but should the places be insufficient i.e. oversubscribed by 'catchment pupils', all applications are deemed placing requests and are processed according to the priorities in *Appendix 2*. Those placing requests having priority over others will be granted up to the available places and those child(ren) given a place and so entitled to enrol in the school unless the family's circumstances change e.g. they subsequently move outwith the school's delineated catchment area.
84. Similar to the allocation of primary places, in a case of over-subscription by 'catchment pupils' Roman Catholic baptised catchment children will be given priority to their local Roman Catholic designated secondary school. Children not allocated a registered S1 place at the Roman Catholic secondary will be considered with other children applying for an S1 place at their local non-denominational secondary school.
85. Should a family wish instead to request an S1 place for their child(ren) at a school other than their local designated secondary school, then they can do so via the placing request process. Families will be asked at the time of S1 application to nominate an alternative school should their designated local secondary school be oversubscribed.
86. Once registered S1 places have been allocated for the school session commencing August of that year and where appropriate and possible, the authority will reserve a reasonable number of places for pupils moving into each school's delineated catchment area during the school year. Thereafter any remaining places will be available for

consideration under the placing request process. The placing requests will be processed according to the proposed priority order shown in *Appendix 2*.

87. All S1 children will be advised of their registered school place by 30 April each year.

Implementation of Proposed New Arrangements for Admissions & P7-S1 Transfer

88. The following section outlines the effect of these proposed new admission arrangements to help manage the numbers in the east of the authority area and in particular at St. Ninian's and its associated primary schools.

89. The table below shows the composition of the September census 2015 school roll by religion separately for the east and west of the Council area for Roman Catholic and non-denominational schools. These are the main categories where the overall percentage is above 1% in East Renfrewshire.

Table 4

Primary & Secondary Pupils by Religion: September 2015								
Area and Denominational Sector	%	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	None	Not disclosed	Not known	Sikh
East: Denom (Roman Catholic)	Roll	78.6	*	10.3	3.2	0.8	4.6	1.1
	ERC Residents	80.3	*	7.9	3.4	0.7	5.3	0.9
East Except Denom (RC)	Roll	45.2	1.6	14.8	25.7	4.1	5.5	1.4
	ERC Residents	48.8	1.5	8.8	27.4	4.4	6.2	1.0
West Denom (Roman Catholic)	Roll	79.8	*	0.1	7.6	*	10.4	*
	ERC Residents	79.7	*	0.6	7.8	*	10.8	*
West Except Denom (RC) i.e. ND	Roll	38.9	*	1.3	34.2	3.1	21.8	*
	ERC Residents	39.2	*	1.2	34.0	3.0	21.9	*

* %s not displayed due to disclosure reasons (based on numbers less than 10).

90. East Renfrewshire is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse areas in Scotland and this is reflected in our schools. It can be seen that in all schools the largest group of pupils are of the Christian faith. We are not able to breakdown the data for Christian into Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic etc. The highest percentage recorded as belonging to the Christian faith are East Renfrewshire residents in Roman Catholic schools in the east of the Council area. After Christianity, the next largest religion is Muslim and there is a high proportion of pupils in non-denominational schools recorded as having no religion. The east of the Council area has the largest percentage of child(ren) from the Muslim community, with the highest percentage evident in the non-denominational sector.

91. Under the proposed change in arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer, in cases when a Roman Catholic school is oversubscribed by 'catchment demand', priority is given to those that are baptised in the Roman Catholic faith. Therefore in planning

future provision we need to consider places in the non-denominational sector for child(ren) not able to obtain a place in an oversubscribed Roman Catholic school.

92. For schools in the east of the Council area the following table shows current and projected P1/S1 pupil numbers for both the primary and secondary sectors by denomination. As noted earlier these are the key cohorts for planning future places.

Table 5

Current and Anticipated New P1 and S1 Pupils and Places in the East of the Council Area									
Pry/Sec and Denominational Sector	Sep-15 P1/S1 roll	Sep-15 P1/S1 ERC residents	Proj Aug-16 P1/S1 roll	Proj Aug-16 P1/S1 ERC residents	P1/S1 average ERC residents	Proj additional ERC P1/S1 pupils from new housing by Aug-22 (Cumulative)	Total proj P1/S1 ERC residents by Aug-22	Proj P1/S1 ERC residents under proposed new admissions arrangements with priority 1	Remaining available P1/S1 places
Primary: Roman Catholic	316	316	314	306	301	17	318	267	33
Primary: Except Den (RC)	692	637	696	631	618	39	657	707	67
Secondary: Roman Catholic	297	234	300	300	280	17	297	247	53
Secondary: Non-Denom	796	676	836	720	677	44	721	771	179

93. In managing provision the authority must plan to have sufficient pupil places for its resident population. Accordingly in projecting the P1 and S1 pupil numbers, it is the East Renfrewshire resident information by denomination we must consider going forward. Available places will of course be filled through the placing request process to 'non-catchment pupils' from the Council area and outwith East Renfrewshire. The figures in the *Table 5* above are for modelling purposes.
94. *Table 5* shows the number of anticipated additional pupils from all the current known planned new residential development. Development is known by year up to and including 2022 from the Housing Land Supply. The year 2022 will result in the maximum number of additional pupils through the new developments. For example it is anticipated that there will be an additional 44 S1 pupils in non-denominational secondary schools by August 2022. Over the period until 2022 these are the maximum number of anticipated additional pupils from the new residential developments.
95. The third last column in *Table 5* shows the projected P1 and S1 East Renfrewshire resident pupils for 2022 inclusive of the impact from new housing. This shows that under the current admissions arrangements the number of projected P1 and S1 pupils seeking a place in Roman Catholic schools is 318 and 297 respectively. This exceeds the P1-intake by 18 and is very tight at S1 with only 3 remaining places. There are still sufficient P1 and S1 places in the non-Roman Catholic schools.
96. The second last column in *Table 5* shows the projected P1 and S1 East Renfrewshire resident pupils for 2022 inclusive of the impact from new housing under the proposed new arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer. The last column shows the remaining available places under this modelling.
97. Should the proposed new arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer be approved, modelling future provision shows that there is an adequate number of places to accommodate all Roman Catholic baptised catchment children (those having the

highest priority) in Roman Catholic schools. The modelling also shows that pupils who under the current admissions arrangements would have been anticipated to attend the non-Roman Catholic schools can be accommodated. In reality some children who are not baptised in the Roman Catholic faith would get a place in their local Roman Catholic school since there are still places available. The modelling must consider the extreme case to look at the potential number of Roman Catholic pupils and consider if there are sufficient places for them at the same time as there being places at the local non-denominational school for the possible number of 'catchment pupils' unable to get a place at an oversubscribed Roman Catholic school.

98. Looking at projections we also need to consider the current pupils already in our schools. East Renfrewshire plans its provision so that once we accept a P1 intake, that cohort can be taken all the way through the primary school. We have seen that projected P1 and S1 pupil numbers under the proposed new admissions arrangements modelling can be accommodated.
99. With the new non-denominational primary school and by controlling future P1 intakes there are sufficient primary places in the east of the authority taking account of current known planned new residential development.
100. Controlling future P1 intakes helps manage future S1 intakes. There are, however, pupils already admitted in our schools under the current admissions arrangements and we must look to see that whilst managing future P1 intakes we can also accommodate the pupils currently in our schools as they progress through the stages from primary to secondary school.
101. In the east of the authority, other than St. Ninian's High School there are sufficient places to manage anticipated pupil numbers in the secondary sector.
102. *Table 6* below shows the projected S1 pupil numbers in St. Ninian's High School under the current admissions arrangements for those who have a first priority right to attend the school. It includes the effects of current known planned new residential development but does not include any additional pupils admitted from outwith the school's catchment. This is for modelling purposes, since we know that any remaining available places will be taken via successful placing requests.

Table 6

St Ninian's High School Projection:						
Under Current Admissions Arrangements- Current Entitled Pupils						
Aug-17	Aug-18	Aug-19	Aug-20	Aug-21	Aug-22	Aug-23
252	268	282	280	308	333	323

103. It shows that without any changes it would not be possible to admit all the anticipated entitled S1 pupils to St. Ninian's for school sessions commencing August 2021, 2022 and 2023. These cohorts comprise pupils in P1 to P3 of school session 2016-17 including additional pupils anticipated in future to join these year groups. At present the actual number of currently entitled pupils for 2016-17 in P1 is 306, P2 316 and P3 289, albeit the school rolls are higher as a result of granted placing requests. Through the projection these are anticipated to rise in the future to 323, 333 and 308 respectively.
104. The following table provides similar data but this time under the proposed new admissions arrangements.

Table 7

St Ninian's High School Projection: Under Proposed New Admissions Arrangements- Pupils with Priority 1						
Aug-17	Aug-18	Aug-19	Aug-20	Aug-21	Aug-22	Aug-23
209	224	235	232	257	277	265

105. Under the proposed new admissions arrangements it would be possible to admit all anticipated S1 pupils with the highest priority (baptised Roman Catholic). Whilst not all anticipated 'catchment pupils' would be able to be admitted to S1 in school sessions 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, (an anticipated 8, 33 and 23 respectively) there would be places available to admit S1 'catchment pupils' not of the Roman Catholic faith up to the school's S1-intake of 300. On average over these 3 years just over 60% of 'catchment S1 pupils' not of the Roman Catholic faith would be able to be admitted to St. Ninian's. The remaining S1 pupils would get a place in their local non-denominational catchment school, or they could make a placing request to an alternative school.
106. It is acknowledged that circumstances are subject to change and projections are made based on the latest available data and knowledge at that time. As evidenced in the past, school provision and admissions arrangements will be kept under review to provide sufficient places including denominational (Roman Catholic) places for East Renfrewshire residents. In future these arrangements may need to change if there is evidence of sustained increases in either denominational or non-denominational sectors. In particular should 'catchment pupils' numbers increase to higher levels than that modelled, and/or their denominational status differs from the proportions set out above. However based on the current latest available data and knowledge, it is expected that the proposed new admissions arrangements would meet needs for the foreseeable future.
107. Subject to consultation the proposed new arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary could be put in place in time for entry to next school session (2017-18). The proposed new admissions arrangements would come into effect for all applications for a place in Roman Catholic and non-denominational schools from January 2017. This is seen as the quickest way to provide a catchment place to all East Renfrewshire children. It would give more control over the intakes of all schools and prioritise places for baptised Roman Catholic children in Roman Catholic schools.

Change Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary and Provide Transitional Measures to Honor Currently Entitled Pupils

108. In addition to the proposed new arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary, the proposal would include some transitional measures to enable all pupils currently entitled to a place in St. Ninian's to remain so.
109. The Council would require temporary additional accommodation to be able to admit currently entitled P1, P2 and P3 pupils of session 2016-17 and entitled pupils joining P1/P2/P3 by the end of December 2016 given their number are above 300. The temporary accommodation would only be required to accommodate these three year groups.
110. The proposed new arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer show that all anticipated pupils with the highest priority (baptised Roman Catholic) could be accommodated within the 300 S1-intake based on current known planned new housing.

The temporary accommodation is not required to admit their year groups; it is only as a temporary measure to allow entry to St. Ninian's for those entitled pupils under current admissions and P7-S1 transfer arrangements. The total cost of the temporary accommodation is estimated to be £750k with phased operation from 2021-22.

111. The benefits have already been outlined of changing to the proposed new arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer. The transitional measures would enable all pupils entitled to a place under the current admissions and P7-S1 transfer arrangements and enrolled by the end of December 2016 to remain so. The proposed new arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer would come into effect for all applications for a place in Roman Catholic and non-denominational schools from January 2017.
112. Based on the current latest available data and knowledge, it is expected that the proposed arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary along with the transitional measures to honour existing arrangements would meet needs for the foreseeable future.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

113. The vision of the Education Department *Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences*, is at the heart of the work that department and school staff undertake as they seek to provide the highest quality education and services to develop the whole individual.
114. All East Renfrewshire schools remain open to all pupils and will continue to have an inclusive, supportive, tolerant and respectful ethos with a drive to help every child achieve and attain their very best. The diversity of our school communities has contributed to their success. The department and schools have been successfully evaluated in terms of equality and fairness and meeting learners' needs.
115. Families of other faiths or none will still be able to apply for their child(ren) to be enrolled at a Roman Catholic school when they wish to do so. Inevitably there are only a limited number of places available in each school and only when a Roman Catholic school is oversubscribed by 'catchment pupils' will priority be given to baptised Roman Catholic children. In such cases of oversubscription, a number of non-Roman Catholic children will be placed in their local non-denominational catchment school. Roman Catholic baptised children will be able to learn in their faith environment and there will still be opportunity for other children to receive a Roman Catholic faith based education.
116. The proposed new arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer should ensure that all information which families and schools need about the application and allocation of school places is contained in a single document. There are overall educational benefits in that the proposal provides clarity on the arrangements to be put in place by East Renfrewshire education authority in the event of oversubscription to any school through the use of consistent prioritisation.
117. There is a statutory requirement for every education authority to secure, for their area, adequate and efficient provision of school education. East Renfrewshire Council has organised the structure of school provision to help ensure that children attending their local primary school can progress to their local secondary school. For almost all secondary schools, the delineated catchment area of the school corresponds to the sum of the delineated catchment areas of the associated primary schools.

118. All children and young people have an entitlement to a curriculum which they experience as a coherent whole, with smooth and well-paced progression through the experiences and outcomes, particularly across transitions, from early learning and childcare to primary, from primary to secondary school, and beyond school. The proposal made in this consultative document aligns with this tenet.
119. Under the proposal the intake levels (and capacity) for all schools is sufficient based on current known planned residential development to meet the needs of East Renfrewshire families and provide places in Roman Catholic schools for baptised Roman Catholic children. It is considered that merely continuing to provide additional places by extending and/or building new schools, would see demand continue to increase. Controlling the intakes whilst also providing places for baptised Roman Catholic children helps meet needs and is better value.
120. The proposal aims to reduce the risk of extremely high occupancy rates in Roman Catholic schools and ensure that East Renfrewshire is able to meet its legislative requirements in relation to Roman Catholic education. When schools are over capacity specialist resources are stretched and, for example, schools must reconfigure general purpose areas (support rooms, etc.) into classroom space to accommodate enlarged intakes. The proposed policy will let us manage the P1-intake at OLM Primary School at 4-streams and not towards the 5-stream levels seen recently with P1 at 150 for August 2016. The local catchment children not able to be placed within the 4-stream intake at OLM Primary School would be placed in the local non-denominational schools with the consequence that occupancy levels could be at more optimum levels across all schools. This would happen similarly at for example St. Cadoc's Primary School, allowing the planned extension to early learning and childcare to be taken forward, subject to consultation.
121. Facilities are worked particularly hard in schools both at and over capacity with management alert to avoiding points of congestion in the busy environments; and timetabling of pupils, teachers and teaching spaces is extremely complex. There are benefits in reducing this pressure on schools for pupils, teachers and management.
122. The proposal will enable the Council to ensure best value in managing its school estate. Financial resources are unavoidably tighter in the current economic climate. The proposal minimises the extent of any necessary capital investment recognising that there are adequate school places to meet needs. Financial resources are not required to continue to build additional places at existing Roman Catholic schools/ or through new build Roman Catholic schools. This would be financially onerous and could reduce the capital investment available for other education estate / council investment projects. Available resources for education can be directed to other priorities and allow for a more equitable distribution of resources.
123. The proposal introduces more control on school applications and would ensure that any remaining available places are prioritised for baptised Roman Catholic pupils moving into the area. These pupils would more likely be able to attend their local catchment Roman Catholic school instead of being redirected (with any associated transport costs) and placed in a school outwith their local area until a place becomes available at their local school. There are educational benefits arising from this because pupils will face less disruption and be more settled if they are accommodated in the local Roman Catholic school. This is because they will not need to travel to an alternative school in a different area and possibly a different school to their sibling(s); and they will not face the prospect of a second transfer between schools after moving into the area.

124. As noted previously, for the first time we have required to re-direct a number of pupils for the August 2016 S1-intake at St. Ninian's High School. The proposal helps control admission to the school and ensure that qualifying East Renfrewshire pupils wishing a denominational (Roman Catholic) education are given a place in St. Ninian's or their local non-denominational school with Roman Catholic baptised pupils receiving first priority at St. Ninian's.
125. Were steps not taken to exert more control over school intakes, then the continued demand for places at certain schools becomes increasingly self-perpetuating and those schools will inevitably always be at capacity while there are available places in other local catchment schools. In the event that the number of primary places are increased without increasing places at the associated secondary school then based on current data and knowledge not all young people who would have an expectation of continuing their education in St. Ninian's High School could be accommodated in around 5 years' time. This would not be an effective management of places and it could be detrimental to a child's education to be advised, at a late stage, that the expected place at the high school was not available as can happen with the current arrangements. As indicated above the S1 at St. Ninian's for August 2016 already has for the first time some pupils redirected from the start of the school session. Controlling the intakes and prioritising for baptised Roman Catholic pupils when a Roman Catholic school is oversubscribed by 'catchment pupils' mitigates this.
126. When a child is granted a placing request to attend a primary school the parents/carers are advised that this does not guarantee them a place in that school's associated secondary. They are advised that should they later wish their child to attend that associated secondary then they must make another placing request that will be considered at that time.
127. An important principle of Curriculum for Excellence is to provide continuity and progression in learning throughout the years 3-18. When applying for a S1 place under the current arrangements, siblings are accorded priority over children that have attended an associated primary school of the secondary school. Under the proposed new arrangements, children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school would accord priority over siblings in terms of placing requests. This recognises the educational benefits of the time spent in an associated primary and of pupils' experiences in the associated cluster of schools. For example, a pupil attending an associated primary for up to 7 years would have priority over a child wishing to enter S1 that has not attended an associated primary, but has a sibling in the secondary school.
128. It is not considered that there would be any adverse impacts on children attending East Renfrewshire schools by implementing the proposal. As at present, the authority will continue to monitor the provision in all its schools in accordance with established procedures and will provide support and challenge in order to secure continuous improvement in the quality of education.
129. Under the proposal there would be no detriment to other users of the schools' facilities.
130. An equality impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the consultation exercise. In carrying out this assessment the department will take account of (or address) any equality issues raised as part of the consultation process. The equality impact assessment will be included in the consultation report on the results.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

131. Implications have been set out above.
132. This would change the arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer to come into effect from January 2017. Transitional measures would ensure that all pupils entitled to a place under the current arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer and enrolled by the end of December 2016 would continue to be so. For St. Ninian's High School, temporary accommodation would be established for phased operation from 2021-22 to honour this commitment for the P1 to P3 2016-17 cohorts. A bid to the Council's Capital Plan would be made for the required additional resources totalling an estimated £750k.
133. Under the proposal the order of priorities for placing requests to all Roman Catholic and non-denominational schools changes to that shown in *Appendix 2*.
134. All children would still be able to attend their local catchment Roman Catholic or non-denominational school. Should a Roman Catholic or non-denominational school be oversubscribed by 'catchment pupils' then all applications are considered as placing requests and the criteria used to prioritise the requests. The criteria include first priority for baptised Roman Catholic children for entry to their catchment Roman Catholic school.
135. East Renfrewshire Council will be able to plan more effectively school provision, provide sufficient places for its resident population and prioritise places for baptised Roman Catholic children in Roman Catholic schools.

School Transport Policy

136. There are implications for the Council's school transport policy. At present the Council's policy provides free school transport based on the distance in miles of a catchment pupil's residence from their designated local catchment school. When a local school is oversubscribed and a pupil needs to be educated outwith their catchment, i.e. they are re-directed, the Council provides transport. When places in the local catchment school become available, parents/carers may wish for their child(ren) to remain in their redirected school and not to return to their catchment school. In such situations, the child(ren) will no longer be regarded as redirected and any travelling costs and/or responsibilities will no longer be met by the Council. At present pupils admitted to a school through a placing request are not entitled to transport.
137. Should the proposal set out in this consultation be approved, pupils admitted to a school by way of a placing request will not be entitled to transport except when the school is oversubscribed at the point of first enrolment at their designated local catchment school and they meet the criteria in terms of distance (home to school).

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

138. Should the proposal be accepted, there would be no immediate additional costs in planning school places. As part of the transitional arrangements, there would be an anticipated total capital cost of £750k to provide the temporary accommodation at St. Ninian's High School to allow the Council to honour commitments to pupils currently entitled under existing arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer. This is an estimated cost at 2021-22 prices provided by colleagues in Property and Technical Services. The temporary accommodation is required to increase incrementally to £750k

by 2023-24, with the first unit required for 2021-22. In considering the temporary accommodation, officers would look at the best value approach taking account of the Council's financial planning to establish the temporary accommodation in coordination with the school.

139. In the event of the proposal not being accepted, significant capital resources would be required to build additional Roman Catholic primary and secondary school places to meet demand under the current arrangements for admissions and P7-S1 transfer and there would be additional consequential increased revenue expenditure.
140. As noted in in paragraph 29 above there will be separate statutory consultation to establish the new non-denominational primary at Maidenhill. There is £14.7 million allocated within the Council's current 8-year plan to fund this new build primary with additional nursery places for August 2019.
141. Examining future provision in areas throughout the authority will continue to be undertaken to ensure there are sufficient educational places according to future local planning processes and resultant new housing land supplies, other demographic changes and relevant modifications to the educational estate as a consequence of local/national educational policy. In the future, should there be sustained evidence of schools being oversubscribed by 'catchment pupils' then this will be considered at that time and may involve additional expenditure. This would be subject of future committee and council reports and any necessary consultation.

CONSULTATION

142. The Council is required to formally consult on proposed changes to school admissions arrangements and variations to the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school. How this is carried out and who must be consulted is clearly set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
143. This report is issued as a formal consultative document and will be made available to all interested parties. A copy of the report is available for inspection at the affected schools; at the Council's Head Office, Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire, G46 6UG; and at the Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY. An electronic version can be accessed on the East Renfrewshire Council website (www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultation).

Schools Affected

144. The schools affected by the proposals are:
- all East Renfrewshire primary and secondary schools
 - St Angela's and St Vincent's primary schools in Glasgow City Council

Period of Consultation

145. The consultation period will last from Friday 26 August 2016 to midnight on Monday 10 October 2016.

Relevant Consultees

146. We will consult with the following:

- parents/ carers of all children/ pupils in the affected schools
- Parent Councils of the affected schools
- parents/ carers of any child(ren)/ pupil(s) expected to attend an affected school within the next 2 school years
- pupils of each affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity)
- school staff (teaching and otherwise) of each affected school
- trade unions representing staff employed in the affected schools
- the Catholic Church
- East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership
- community councils
- local elected members
- local Members of Parliament and local Members of Scottish Parliament
- members of East Renfrewshire Council's Education Committee
- Glasgow City Council
- Education Scotland

147. During the consultation period there will be two public meetings. These will be held in Carlbar Primary School, Barrhead at 7:00 pm on 21 September 2016; and Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock at 7:00 pm on 28 September 2016. Elected members and senior officers of East Renfrewshire Council will be present to discuss the proposal and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

148. Note on Corrections: If any possible inaccuracy or omission in the Consultative Document is discovered by the Education Department or is suggested by any other person, the department will determine if relevant information has been omitted or if there has been an inaccuracy. The Education Department will then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period as appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

Responding to the Consultation

149. East Renfrewshire Council invites all interested parties to make written representation on the consultative proposal. Interested parties are encouraged to provide feedback on East Renfrewshire Council's website www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultation ; or alternatively citizens can complete and return the consultation response proforma attached in *Appendix 3*.

150. Written responses regarding the proposal will also be accepted by post. Such responses should be clear about who you are, where you live, why you are interested including your relationship with the affected schools (e.g. parent/ carer of pupil in an affected school, member of staff at an affected school, relative of a pupil at an affected school etc.) and whether or not you agree with the proposal, or have any alternative solutions or comments. Petitions will be treated as a single response.

151. Education Scotland is entitled to copies of all responses received. We would therefore advise that your personal information will be supplied to Education Scotland if they request it. Separately other interested parties may also seek sight of the responses received and accordingly you should advise if you wish your personal details withheld in respect of these requests.
152. Please send all written representation on the proposal to East Renfrewshire Council no later than midnight on Monday 10 October 2016 via the Council's consultation website, or postal address for hard copies to East Renfrewshire Council, Education Department, Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY.
153. Education Scotland will be sent details of the consultation responses including issues raised at the public meetings and other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare and submit a report to the Director of Education within three weeks. In preparing their report Education Scotland may visit the affected schools.
154. The Director of Education will report the results of this consultation exercise including the report submitted by Education Scotland, to the Education Committee on Tuesday 20 December 2016. The consultation report on the results will be available for public inspection at least 3 weeks before that date. The report will be available at all reasonable times at Council Offices at Eastwood Park, and Barrhead Main Street, in the affected schools, local libraries and published on the Council's website.
155. Reasonable requests for alternative forms of consultation papers or response documents will be accommodated wherever possible e.g. audio support or language translations. For this support please contact Mary Hart (0141 577 3435) or email Mary.Hart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or write to the address in paragraph 152 above.
156. The final report and the decision taken by the Education Committee will be made available on the Council's website. Printed copies of the report will be made available on request to anyone who has responded to the consultative document.

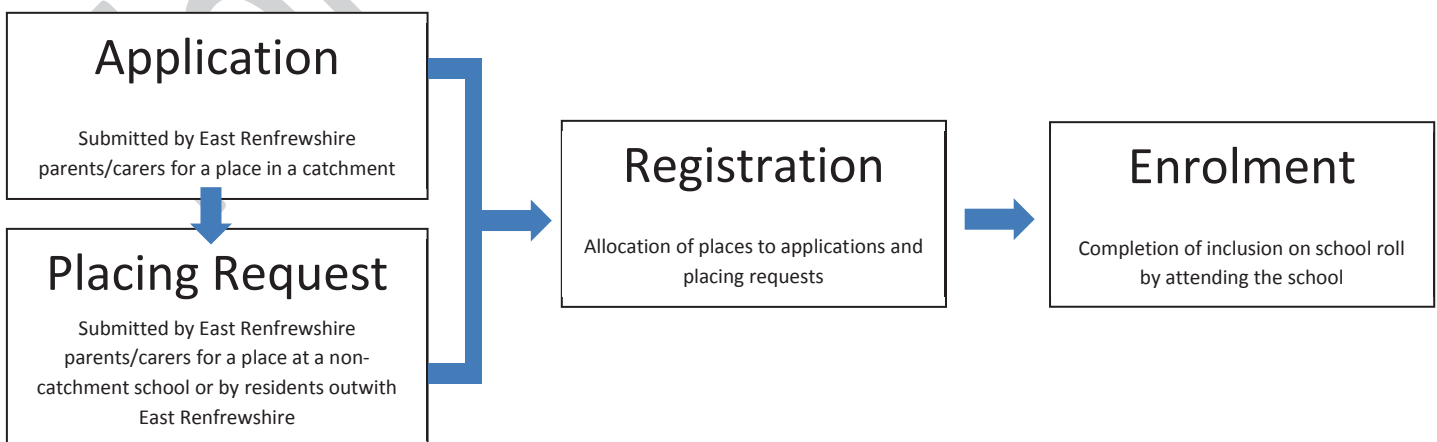
Mhairi Shaw
Director of Education
August 2016

**Proposed New Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of
Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all
East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational
Primary and Secondary Schools Effective from January 2017**



Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic & Non-Denominational Primary & Secondary Schools

Effective from January 2017



Contents

1. BACKGROUND	3
1.1 Catchment areas.....	3
1.2 Associated schools.....	3
1.3 Roman Catholic/non-denominational schools	4
1.4 Applying for a school place.....	4
1.5 Oversubscribed schools.....	4
1.6 Choice of school.....	5
1.7 Reserved places	5
2. THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE	5
2.1 Age for commencement of primary education	5
2.2 Defer entry.....	5
2.3 Early commencement of primary education.....	6
2.4 Applying for a P1 school place during the normal placing round	6
2.5 Applying for an S1 school place during the normal placing round.....	7
2.6 Applying for a school place outwith the normal placing round	8
2.7 Change of circumstances.....	8
3. THE DECISION MAKING PROCEDURE	9
3.1 Decisions on applications as part of the normal placing round	9
3.2 Decisions on applications received outwith the normal placing round	10
4. APPEALING A DECISION	10
4.1 Appeal consideration.....	10
4.2 No preferred alternative school recorded on the application	10
4.3 Preferred alternative school recorded on the application.....	10
4.4 Submitting an appeal.....	11
5. REDIRECTION	11
5.1 The process.....	11
5.2 Returning to a catchment school after being redirected	11
6. TRANSPORT	11
6.1 Transport provision	11
6.2 Redirected children	11
7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	12
7.1 Submission of information	12
7.2 Schools and school handbooks.....	12

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Catchment areas

- 1.1.1 The geographical area of East Renfrewshire Council is divided into delineated catchment areas for primary and secondary schools. Each school is either Roman Catholic (Roman Catholic) or non-denominational.
- 1.1.2 The arrangements described in this document do not apply to Calderwood Lodge Primary School. There are separate arrangements for this school which should be referred to. Calderwood Lodge Primary School provides a Jewish education including compulsory Hebrew and Kodesh within an extended school day. All admissions to Calderwood Lodge Primary School must be made by a placing request and pupils attending the primary and live within East Renfrewshire will automatically transfer to Mearns Castle High School for secondary education.
- 1.1.3 Each residential property which is located within East Renfrewshire Council has a 'catchment' Roman Catholic and non-denominational primary and secondary school assigned to it. This is determined by the geographical location of the property and each school's delineated catchment area in which the property is located. In a very small number of cases, properties may have more than one Roman Catholic or non-denominational primary or secondary assigned to it. Further information on these properties can be provided by request to the Education Department.
- 1.1.4 Although the Council aims to provide enough places for all children at the preferred catchment primary and secondary school, living within the delineated catchment area of a school does not guarantee a child a place at a catchment school.
- 1.1.5 A map (graphical representation) of a school's delineated catchment area can be viewed at each school or the Council's Offices at Eastwood Park or Barrhead Main Street, by prior arrangement. Currently these maps are not available online. For more information on catchment schools, please see the Council's website. If there is any doubt regarding the catchment schools for a particular property, contact the Education Department who can advise accurately.
- 1.1.6 The location of the property of the parent/carer with whom the child resides is that used in determining local school catchment areas for the child.

1.2 Associated schools

- 1.2.1 With the exception of Mearns Primary School, each primary school is associated with a number of other primary schools and a secondary school to form a single cluster of schools. The catchment area of the secondary school is made up of the catchment areas of the associated primary schools. There are five non-denominational clusters of associated schools and two Roman Catholic clusters of associated schools in East Renfrewshire.
- 1.2.2 It is assumed that for East Renfrewshire parents/carers, the secondary school place that their child will apply for is the catchment secondary school of the same denomination as the primary school their child already attends. The secondary school is deemed their designated local secondary school.
 - 1.2.2.1 Mearns Primary School's delineated catchment area overlaps that of Eastwood and Mearns Castle high schools. Mearns Primary School works collaboratively with both clusters.
 - 1.2.2.2 For the purpose of placing request administration, Eastwood High School is the

associated secondary of Mearns Primary School for children who attend Mearns Primary School but do not reside within the delineated catchment area of the school.

1.3 Roman Catholic/non-denominational schools

- 1.3.1 Any East Renfrewshire parent/carer has the choice of applying for a place in the designated catchment schools, on first entry to education provided by East Renfrewshire Council or as part of the transition from primary to secondary school.
- 1.3.2 Parents/carers of children who are baptised Roman Catholic, and who want their child to apply for a place in a Roman Catholic school, should inform the school/Council and provide evidence in the form of their child's Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate at the time of application. The Council aims to provide enough places for all baptised Roman Catholic children to attend their catchment Roman Catholic school. The Council will provide a Roman Catholic education to all baptised Roman Catholic children of East Renfrewshire parents/carers at an educational establishment within the authority.

1.4 Applying for a school place

- 1.4.1 Applications for a place in a catchment primary or secondary school can be made by East Renfrewshire parents/carers for their child:
 - 1.4.1.1 for initial commencement of education at the beginning of the primary 1 year stage.
 - 1.4.1.2 at any stage when becoming resident within the school's delineated catchment area.
 - 1.4.1.3 when, as a result of being educated elsewhere (e.g. home schooling or private education), they have never attended an East Renfrewshire Council educational establishment, but are now returning to the public education system.
 - 1.4.1.4 at time of transition from primary to secondary education.
- 1.4.2 If after enrolment in an East Renfrewshire educational establishment, the parent/carer wishes for their child to change to an alternative school, regardless of whether or not the desired change is to another catchment school, a placing request is required to be submitted. See "Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form" for further details on making a placing request.
- 1.4.3 Parents/carers who do not reside within the delineated area of East Renfrewshire Council are required to submit a placing request in order for their child to be considered for a place in an East Renfrewshire school. Please see "Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form" for further details.

1.5 Oversubscribed schools

- 1.5.1 In the event that the number of applications from catchment pupils is greater than the number of places available at that stage in the catchment school, all catchment applications will be processed as placing requests with registration places allocated based on the Council's published placing request priorities. See "Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form" for further details.
- 1.5.2 Places are limited by factors including the availability of accommodation, the cost of extending accommodation, and the cost of employing additional staff. For this reason, it is not always possible to offer parents their first choice of school.

1.6 Choice of school

- 1.6.1 Parents/carers have the right to make a placing request for their child or children to be educated in a school other than their local catchment school. The Council must grant placing requests unless there is a legal reason not to. Please see “Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form” for further details.
- 1.6.2 Parents/carers who intend to make a placing request for a non-catchment school should in the first instance apply for a place in their catchment school, and also inform the head teacher of their intention to submit a placing request. This is required to ensure there is a catchment place allocated in the event a placing request cannot be granted.

1.7 Reserved places

- 1.7.1 The Council is entitled to reserve a reasonable number of places for children moving into each school's delineated catchment area up to and during the following academic year. Please see “Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form” for further details.

2. THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE

2.1 Age for commencement of primary education

- 2.1.1 Enrolment to the primary one year stage at East Renfrewshire schools takes place once a year at the start of the new session in August. Children who reach the age of five years between 1 March of that year and the last day of February of the following year are expected to apply for a place in a catchment school. For example, children turning 5 between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2017 will be eligible to apply for a school place for August 2016.

2.2 Defer entry

- 2.2.1 If a child reaches the age of five during January or February (after the August in which they are supposed to commence their primary education), parents/carers may choose to defer entry until the following academic year. A fully funded nursery place will be available for such children.
- 2.2.2 If a child reaches the age of five between the start of the new academic session in August and the end of December, parents/carers may also choose to defer entry for a year however, a funded nursery place will not automatically be provided.
- 2.2.3 If a parent/carer intends to defer commencement of their child's primary education, they should still register their child in the appropriate catchment primary school and advise the head teacher of their intention to defer entry. The appropriate paperwork will then be completed and returned to the Education Department for processing.
- 2.2.4 Should your child's deferred entry be confirmed, it will be assumed that you will not require the P1 place. This place may be offered to another child. If you change your mind at a later date, then in some situations it may not be possible to provide a P1 place in your preferred catchment school.

2.3 Early commencement of primary education

- 2.3.1 The Council does not have to educate children who are not of school age. Parents/carers may wish to make a request for early entry to school for a child whose fifth birthday falls after the last day in February. Requests for early entry to school should be made directly to the Education Department.

2.4 Applying for a P1 school place during the normal placing round

- 2.4.1 Applications for P1 places commencing at the beginning of the academic year in August should be made in person at a specified location during School Application Week which takes place during the second or third week in January. Applications submitted after School Application Week should be made to the catchment school of your choice until the end of the academic year prior to which your child will begin primary education. However it is advisable where possible to make your application during School Application Week as this provides you with the optimum chance of securing a place in your preferred school.
- 2.4.2 The exact date of School Application Week will be published annually from around the beginning of December onwards, and will be visible at least 4 weeks before the commencement of School Application Week on the Council's website as well as in the local published press. At present it is not possible to apply online. Schools should be contacted directly for specific details on their application process; schools may also publish details of how to apply for a catchment place on their website.
- 2.4.3 Parents/carers must provide satisfactory documentary evidence of the age of their child and that their family reside within the catchment area of the school. This evidence includes:
- the child's Birth Certificate
 - a recent Child Benefit Statement *
 - the most recent Council Tax Notice
 - proof of ownership such as a mortgage statement
 - a signed and independently witnessed residency/tenant agreement for at least 1 year i.e. evidence that covers the entire calendar year from the date of application. If the agreement expires before this date, a further agreement will be required to be submitted at a later date before registration will be confirmed.

* In the event that a Child Benefit Statement is not available, a Driving Licence or a Bank Statement/utility bill showing transactions over the most recent 3 months and the applicant's address may be accepted.

The list above is not exhaustive and the Council retains the right to ask for further information when proof of residency is not satisfied.

- 2.4.4 In the situation where there is an agreement for shared custody of a child where a child lives with a different parent/carer regularly at a different property, the local catchment school is defined by the Education Department as the residence of the parent/carer who receives Child Benefit for said child. Recent documentary evidence of receipt of Child Benefit or equivalent paperwork will require to be submitted to the Education Department. In the event that a Child Benefit Statement is not available please contact the Education Department for further guidance.
- 2.4.5 At the time of application, parent\carer's can identify an alternative school to be considered should the Council be unable to satisfy the catchment school selected due to oversubscription at that stage. This alternative school is called the preferred alternative school.
- 2.4.6 Applications for places in the P1 year stage submitted as part of the Normal Placing Round will be processed as per section 3.

- 2.4.7 A placing request must be submitted for children to attend a primary school for which they do not reside within the delineated catchment area of. Please see “Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form” for further details.
- 2.4.8 In all cases parents/carers must inform the Education Department of their intentions for their child by completing and returning the application documentation by the application deadline.

2.5 Applying for an S1 school place during the normal placing round

- 2.5.1 As part of the P7-S1 transitions programme, all parents/carers of children who attend an East Renfrewshire primary school will be provided with details of the S1 application process in early December.
- 2.5.2 Parents/carers residing within East Renfrewshire Council should complete the application process for a place at their preferred catchment secondary school and provide evidence of their continued residency within the delineated catchment area. This evidence must be submitted to the East Renfrewshire primary school that the child attends; documentation sent to parents/carers will advise of the primary school's procedures and deadline for submission of evidence.
- 2.5.3 In the situation where there is an agreement for shared custody of a child where a child lives with a different parent/carer regularly at a different property, the local catchment school is defined by the Education Department as the residence of the parent/carer who receives Child Benefit for said child. Recent documentary evidence of receipt of Child Benefit or equivalent paperwork will require to be submitted to the Education Department. In the event that a Child Benefit Statement is not available please contact the Education Department for further guidance.
- 2.5.4 At the time of application, parent/carers can identify an alternative school to be considered should the Council be unable to satisfy the catchment school selected due to oversubscription at that stage. This alternative school is called the preferred alternative school.
- 2.5.5 Applications for places in the S1 year stage submitted as part of the Normal Placing Round will be processed as per section 3.
- 2.5.6 East Renfrewshire parents/carers with children residing in the authority and not being educated in an East Renfrewshire Council primary school, but who wish for their child to attend an East Renfrewshire secondary school from the commencement of the S1 year stage, should contact the Education Department in the December to apply for a place in the following academic session.
- 2.5.7 Attendance at a non-catchment secondary school will require a placing request to be made. Please see “Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form” for further details.
- 2.5.8 In all cases, parents/carers must inform the Education Department of their intentions for their child by completing and returning the application documentation by the end of December.

2.6 Applying for a school place outwith the normal placing round

- 2.6.1 Applications for a place to commence at any point during the academic year outwith the Normal Placing Round should be made by a parent/carer directly to the preferred catchment school.
- 2.6.1.1 Where places are available the school will agree a date and time for the parent/carer to submit their application along with the required appropriate documentary evidence as described in paragraph 2.4.3.
- 2.6.1.2 Applicants may find that the school is already full at the year stage requested. In this situation parents/carers will be asked to contact the Education Department to discuss options for redirecting their child to an alternative establishment. We will do our best to meet requests and provide support with transport where appropriate. Please see section 6 for further details on transport.
- 2.6.2 Any application for a catchment school place being submitted during a school holiday should be directed to the Education Department. The Education Department will arrange for you to make your submission at the Education Department's headquarters by prior arrangement; documentary evidence, as per paragraph 2.4.3, will be required to be provided at this point. The Education Department will process your application.

2.7 Change of circumstances

- 2.7.1 Applications cannot become registrations until all required documentary evidence has been received in full. If a child's location of residency changes after submission of an application for a catchment school, the parent/carer should inform the school immediately or, if during a school holiday, the Education Department. The Council reserves the right to refuse a place in any of its educational establishments when it is not satisfied that an application meets the required criteria for a place.
- 2.7.2 If you are or become a resident within the catchment area of the school which your child attends, and at a later date move out of the catchment area, you will be required to submit a placing request to remain application.
- 2.7.3 Where the new family residence is outwith the delineated catchment area of the school applied for but remains within East Renfrewshire Council:
- 2.7.3.1 and the parent/carer has not yet been sent confirmation of a registered place being granted, the application will be rescinded and a new application will require to be submitted for the new catchment school as appropriate.
- 2.7.3.2 and a registered place has been confirmed at the school initially applied for however, you wish to make an application for your new catchment school. You will be required to inform the school you no longer require this place and make an application for the new catchment school as soon as possible.
- 2.7.3.3 and a registered place has been confirmed at the school initially applied for, a placing request to remain as registered on the school roll is required to be submitted to the school as soon as possible. If the registered school is not redirecting children to alternative establishments as a result of the year stage being full, placing requests to remain will be granted. In the event that a placing request to remain cannot be granted, and a place is available in the new catchment school of the same sector (Roman Catholic or non-denominational), the Education Department will require the parent/carer to make contact with the new catchment school to make arrangements for submission of an application.

If the new catchment school of the same denomination (Roman Catholic or non-denominational) is full at the year stage in question, the child will require to be redirected to an agreed alternative school in negotiation with the parent/carer.

2.7.4 If the location of the new residence is outwith East Renfrewshire Council:

2.7.4.1 and the parent/carer has not yet been sent confirmation of a registered place being granted, the application will be rescinded and the parent/carer will be required to apply for a catchment place to the appropriate local authority where the new residence is located as soon as possible.

2.7.4.2 and a registered place has been confirmed at the school initially applied for however, you wish to make an application for your new catchment school. You will be required to inform the school you no longer require this place and make an application for a catchment place to the appropriate local authority where the new residence is located.

2.7.4.3 and a registered place has been confirmed at the school initially applied for, a placing request to remain as registered on the school roll is required to be submitted to the school as soon as possible. If the registered school is not redirecting children to alternative establishments as a result of the year stage being full, placing requests to remain will be granted. In the event that a placing request to remain cannot be granted, the parent/carer will be required to apply for a catchment place to the appropriate local authority where the new residence is located.

2.7.5 In all cases a request to remain must be submitted where a child no longer resides within the delineated catchment area of the school they attend and they wish to remain registered or enrolled there. Where there are children who are being redirected to an alternative establishment due to the year stage requested being full, the request will be refused and the parent/carer will be required to remove the child from the school register within 4 weeks.

3. THE DECISION MAKING PROCEDURE

3.1 Decisions on applications as part of the normal placing round

3.1.1 In the case where the number of applications submitted for a place in a catchment school is less than the number of places available all applications will be granted as registrations.

3.1.2 If the number of applications received for a place in a catchment school is greater than the number of available places, i.e. the school's stage is oversubscribed, all applications received on time will be treated as placing requests and will be processed by the Education Department against its published priorities. Placing requests received from non-catchment pupils will not be included.

3.1.3 In the event that a catchment school is unable to satisfy an application and a preferred alternative school has been recorded, the preferred alternative school will be treated as a placing request and will be processed along with all other placing requests received by the placing request deadline and in line with the published placing request priorities.

3.1.3.1 If the preferred alternative school request can be accommodated the child will be registered for this school. This will be recorded as a successful placing request and not a redirected child.

3.1.3.2 If the preferred alternative school placing request cannot be satisfied and the initial school applied for is a Roman Catholic school for a baptised Roman Catholic child, the child will be redirected to another Roman Catholic school until a place becomes available in their catchment Roman Catholic school.

- 3.1.3.3 If the preferred alternative school placing request cannot be satisfied and the initial school applied for was a Roman Catholic school for a child of another faith or none, the child will be registered for a place in the catchment non-denominational school.
- 3.1.3.4 If the preferred alternative school placing request cannot be satisfied and the initial school applied for was a non-denominational school, the child will be redirected to an alternative non-denominational school.
- 3.1.4 In the event that a catchment school is unable to satisfy an application and no preferred alternative school has been recorded:
 - 3.1.4.1 If the application is for a Roman Catholic school for a baptised Roman Catholic child, the child will be redirected to another school until a place becomes available in their catchment Roman Catholic school.
 - 3.1.4.2 If the application is for a Roman Catholic school for a child of another faith or none, the child will be registered for a place in the catchment non-denominational school. If no preferred alternative school has been recorded the Education Department will presume that the parent wishes their child to attend the catchment non-denominational school as an alternative. This will not be treated as a redirect.
 - 3.1.4.3 If the application is for a non-denominational school the child will be redirected to an alternative non-denominational school.
- 3.1.5 Parents/carers will receive written notification of the outcome of their application no later than April 30.
- 3.2 Decisions on applications received outwith the normal placing round**
 - 3.2.1 Applications received outwith the normal placing round will be processed by the school in line with section 3.1.
 - 3.2.2 Applications received by the Education Department during school holidays will be processed by the Education Department in line with section 3.1.

4. APPEALING A DECISION

4.1 Appeal consideration

- 4.1.1 The Council appreciates that parents/carers may be very disappointed that their child cannot go to the school they desire because the year stage at the school is full. Parents/carers should have a good reason for asking an appeal committee to look at their request again.

4.2 No preferred alternative school recorded on the application

- 4.2.1 Where no alternative school has been recorded by the applicant, the applicant will have the right to make an appeal to the Education Appeal Committee, regarding the outcome of the placing request process, in relation to their application.

4.3 Preferred alternative school recorded on the application

- 4.3.1 Where an applicant has recorded a preferred alternative school, and that alternative school is processed as a placing request due to the catchment school applied for being full, the applicant cannot appeal to the Education Appeal Committee in relation to the catchment school placing request refusal.

- 4.3.2 In the situation where an applicant's placing request to a preferred alternative school cannot be accommodated, the applicant will have the right to make an appeal to the independent Education Appeal Committee regarding the placing request for the preferred alternative school.

4.4 Submitting an appeal

- 4.4.1 If an applicant decides to appeal against a placing request decision they will not be able to make another placing request until the appeal is heard or is withdrawn.
See "Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form" for further details on making an appeal.

5. REDIRECTION

5.1 The process

- 5.1.1 In negotiation with parents/carers, redirected children will attend an appropriate alternative establishment until a place becomes available in their requested catchment school.
- 5.1.2 As places become available in the requested catchment school these will be offered to parents/carers of redirected children in the order in which the applications for a place in the school were received.
- 5.1.3 Where the number of redirected children with the same application date is greater than the number of places which have become available in the catchment school, the published priorities for placing requests will be applied.

5.2 Returning to a catchment school after being redirected

- 5.2.1 When places in the preferred catchment school become available, parents/carers may instead wish for their child to remain in their redirected school and not return to their catchment school. In such situations, the child will no longer be regarded as a redirected child and will be removed from the redirected list.

6. TRANSPORT

6.1 Transport provision

- 6.1.1 Further information on meeting the criteria for free transport is available via the Council's website.
- 6.1.2 We cannot provide support with transport to schools outwith East Renfrewshire Council.
- 6.1.3 Pupils admitted to a school by way of a placing request will not be entitled to transport except when the school is oversubscribed at the point of first enrolment at their designated local catchment school and they meet the criteria in terms of distance (home to school).

6.2 Redirected children

- 6.2.1 Where a child has been redirected to a non-catchment school, the cost of transport will be met by the Council if the free transport criteria has been met.
- 6.2.2 If the family of a redirected child chooses to keep their child in the redirected school when a place in an appropriate catchment school becomes available, travelling costs will no longer be met by the Council.

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7.1 Submission of information

- 7.1.1 The information provided as part of an application or placing request must be full and correct in every respect to the best of the parent's/carer's knowledge. East Renfrewshire Council will conduct checks to establish the accuracy of information supplied which may include visits to premises to confirm residence. Any attempts to obtain a place by deception may result in the rescinding of the parent's/carer's application/placing request and the matter being passed to the Procurator Fiscal's office for consideration of criminal proceedings.

7.2 Schools and school handbooks

- 7.2.1 Further information on all East Renfrewshire's educational establishments is available via the Council's website.
- 7.2.2 All of East Renfrewshire's schools have their own website where you will find a wide variety of information specific to each school.

Education: August 2016



Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School In East Renfrewshire

Guidance Information and Application Form

Effective from January 2017

If you are making a request for a place in Calderwood Lodge, a different set of criteria is used to allocate places.

Making a Placing Request to a School in East Renfrewshire

1. Information

- 1.1 Parents/carers have the right to make a placing request for their child or children to be educated in a school other than their local catchment school.

2. When a Placing Request is Required

- 2.1 A placing request is required if:

- 2.1.1 the number of applications received in respect of catchment pupils for a school is greater than the number of places available (in such situations the applications will be deemed and processed as placing requests; and there is no need by the parent/carer to submit a placing request)
- 2.1.2 a parent/carer wishes for their child to attend a school other than a designated catchment school
- 2.1.3 if after commencement of attendance at an East Renfrewshire catchment school, the parents/carers would like their child to attend the alternative sector catchment school (e.g. transfer from a non-denominational to denominational catchment primary or secondary school or vice versa)
- 2.1.4 if at the point of transition from primary to secondary education the parents/carers would like their child to attend a secondary school other than a catchment secondary school
- 2.1.5 a family residing outwith East Renfrewshire Council wish their child to attend an East Renfrewshire school.

- 2.2 A placing request to remain in a school is required if:

- the family are or become resident within the catchment area of the school which the child attends, and at a later date move out of the catchment area.
- 2.2.1 Where a placing request to remain relates to a school's year stage which is full, and which already has a redirected child as a consequence, the request to remain will be refused. Exceptionally, if the request to remain is submitted for an East Renfrewshire catchment pupil, and the year stage at the child's new East Renfrewshire catchment school is also full, the application to remain will be granted
- 2.2.2 In all cases where a request to remain cannot be granted parents/carers should make arrangements for their child to attend an alternative school as quickly as possible. The Council expects parents/carers to remove their child from the school register within 4 weeks of receipt of the Request to Remain Refusal Letter.

3 Submitting a Placing Request

- 3.1 In December/January of each year, the authority will advertise its arrangements with regards school admission applications and placing requests.
- 3.2 Where the number of applications submitted on behalf of catchment pupils is greater than the number of places available at that year stage in the catchment school requested i.e. oversubscription, these applications will be treated as placing requests. In this situation, applications will be processed as per the priorities detailed in paragraph 4.8.
- 3.2.1 Where an application submitted on behalf of a catchment pupil cannot be satisfied and a preferred alternative school has been recorded then this will now be treated as a placing request.

- 3.3 For placing requests received by the deadline date of 31 January, every effort will be made to meet parent/carer requests within the limits of places available in schools, but you should note that it is not always possible to grant every placing request.
- 3.4 Placing requests received after the 31 January may be considered after decisions are made for requests received by the due date.
- 3.5 The parents/carers will declare on the application form that the information they provide is accurate and correct. The Council reserves the right to request further proof of residence or other relevant information related to an application from parents/carers or other Council officials to confirm details.
- 3.6 There are sound educational reasons for trying to ensure that the transfer or admission of children to a school takes place at the start of a school session. You are advised to avoid changing schools part way through the school session to avoid disruption to your child's education.
- 3.7 Most placing requests are made for pupils to change school at the start of a new school session. However it is accepted that there will be circumstances when a placing request will be made for a pupil to change school at any time. In such cases requests will be considered in the order in which they are received.
- 3.8 If you are applying for more than one child please complete a separate form for each child. For each child, you may only apply for one school at any one time.
- 3.9 Please send the completed placing request application form(s) to the Education Department and inform the head teacher of the school that the child attends, or has applied for a catchment place at, of the intention to make a placing request.
- 3.10 You will receive an acknowledgement when your request has been received. If you have not received this within 10 working days you should contact the department at 0141 577 3578/3246.

4 How decisions are made

- 4.1 The responsibility for decisions on placing requests lies with the Education Directorate. The presumption is that a placing request will be granted unless there is a valid reason not to grant it.
- 4.2 A successful application for a placing request in a primary school does not guarantee a place in the associated secondary school; a subsequent placing request must be submitted in the January of the child's P7 year stage. Children who attend an associated primary school have an order of priority as detailed in paragraph 4.8.
- 4.3 The Education Department cannot guarantee placing requests for future siblings. This may result in any future placing request for siblings being refused if, at the point of application the year/stage in the requested school is full.
- 4.4 All applications submitted on behalf of catchment pupils received on time will be considered together.
- 4.5 All placing requests received by 31 January for a school place commencing the following August (new school academic year) will be considered together, along with any placing requests from East Renfrewshire parents/carers whose catchment school application could not be satisfied and who recorded a preferred alternative school.
- 4.6 Where the number of placing requests received is greater than the number of places available at that year stage in the school requested, places will be allocated using the listed priorities in paragraph 4.8.

- 4.7 If all placing requests received on time for a particular school are granted, and places remain available (taking account of reserved places –see section 6), any placing requests which were received late will then be processed with places allocated using the listed priorities in paragraph 4.8.
- 4.8 Where the number of requests is greater than the number of places available, the priorities below are used to allocate places and are listed in order of priority:
1. The child is resident within the school's delineated catchment area.
 2. In the case of a Roman Catholic school, the parent with whom the child resides is resident within the school's delineated catchment area and the child is a baptised Roman Catholic as evidenced by a baptismal certificate.
 3. East Renfrewshire residents where the child has a medical condition, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
 4. Non-East Renfrewshire residents where the child has a medical condition, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
 5. East Renfrewshire residents: when applying for secondary schools, children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary. This means that pupils who have attended the school for the longest time will have the highest priority.
 6. Non-East Renfrewshire residents: when applying for secondary schools, children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary. This means that pupils who have attended the school for the longest time will have the highest priority.
 7. Those cases where a brother or sister attends the school and will continue in this school during the next session.
 8. East Renfrewshire residents: the child is part of a single parent/carer family where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school. Please provide details with your application.
 9. Non-East Renfrewshire residents: the child is part of a single parent/carer family where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school. Please provide details with your application.
 10. East Renfrewshire residents with no other listed priority
 11. Non-East Renfrewshire residents with no other listed priority.
- 4.9 The criteria will be applied in the order shown above. If for any category the number of requests exceeds the number of places available, the next succeeding criteria will be used to prioritise these requests and so on until all priority criteria have been exhausted. If, after this process, two or more requests cannot be distinguished as having priority, then a ballot will be held to allocate the places available. This ballot will be organised by a senior education officer.
- 4.10 As soon as a decision has been made you will be notified of the result. If your placing request is successful you will receive a letter inviting you to enrol your child in your chosen school.
- 4.11 A successful placing request to a primary school is valid only until the end of primary 7.
- 4.12 Successful placing requests for a secondary school are valid until the child leaves the school.

5. Why Requests are sometimes not granted

- 5.1 You may be sent a letter notifying you that your request has been refused. This will state why your request has been refused and quote the section of the Education Act which applies.
- 5.2 The most common reason for a placing request refusal is that the school is full at the required stage, that is, all available places at the stage have been allocated and as such additional pupils would require the authority to employ an additional teacher and/or modify or extend the school's accommodation or facilities at this stage or at a future stage of your child's education.
- 5.3 There are other circumstances where a request may be refused including:
- where the granting of the request would interrupt the continuity of the child's education
 - where it is likely that order and discipline in the school or the well-being of pupils in the school would be adversely affected
 - in secondary schools where it is not possible to provide the courses you want.

6. Reserved places

- 6.1 As part of the East Renfrewshire Council Scheme of Delegated Functions the Director of Education is authorised:

“to exercise the powers available to the Council as education authority, in terms of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000, with regard the number of places to “reserve” in a particular school to accommodate pupils likely to become resident in the school's catchment;”

The East Renfrewshire Council Scheme of Delegated Functions is available via the Council's website.

- 6.2 The number of places reserved for catchment pupils by East Renfrewshire Council for a school depends on a range of factors some of which are listed below:
- Number of intake classes
 - House building in the catchment
 - Catchment migration information
 - History of late enrolments
 - Evidence of re-direction of pupils from other East Renfrewshire schools which are full

The list above is not exhaustive and other factors may be taken into consideration when determining the number of reserved places for a school.

- 6.3 The number of reserved places is kept as low as possible to meet the wishes of as many parents as possible who have submitted placing requests, but high enough to allow the Local Authority to meet its statutory duty of providing an appropriate education, preferably in the child's local school, for most children.

7. If your Placing Request is refused

- 7.1 You may be very disappointed that your child cannot go to the school you want. You should have a good reason for asking an appeal committee to look at your request again.
- 7.2 You may lodge an appeal and your appeal will be heard by the Education Appeal Committee. The Committee will decide whether the Council have followed its procedures and applied the priorities for granting placing requests for the particular school correctly, and if so, whether they should in any event confirm the authority's decision.

- 7.3 If you are not provided with a decision on your placing request by 30 April for requests for the new academic year commencing August (or within 2 months for requests made at other times of the year), you may also appeal. However if you decide to appeal you will not be able to make another placing request until the appeal is heard or you withdraw your appeal.
- 7.4 In the case of an Early Entry request there is no opportunity for appeal.
- 7.5 As a general rule, you can only appeal a decision regarding a particular school once each year for each of your children.
- 7.6 Before you decide to appeal you should consider these points:
- Would it be more advantageous to apply for another school at this time rather than appeal?
 - Do you agree with what the Council have said?
 - Do you think what they have said is allowable?
 - Have the Council's guidelines been followed?
- 7.7 Your appeal should be sent to the Education Department. You will know the reasons why your placing request was refused and you will be given the opportunity to explain to the Education Appeal Committee why the authority was wrong to refuse your request in person or through a representative, whichever you prefer.
- 7.8 If the appeal committee refuses your request you have the right of further appeal to the Sheriff in which case you may wish to contact a solicitor.

8. Further information

8.1 Submission of information

- 8.1.1 The information provided as part of an application or placing request must be full and correct in every respect to the best of the parent's/carer's knowledge. East Renfrewshire Council will conduct checks to establish the accuracy of information supplied which may include visits to premises to confirm residence. Any attempts to obtain a place by deception may result in the rescinding of your application/placing request and the matter being passed to the Procurator Fiscal's office for consideration of criminal proceedings.

8.2 Other information

Information concerning schools in other authorities is available from the education offices or department of that authority.

Specific information on placing request procedures may be found in:

"Choosing a School: A Guide for Parents"

from: The Scottish Government Learning Directorate, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

and on the Scottish Government website. The publication is regularly updated, and is best found by searching the web for "Choosing a School Scotland".

If your child has additional support needs you will find advice including information about choosing a school and your appeal rights in "The Parents' Guide to Additional Support for Learning" published by Enquire:

from: Enquire, Children in Scotland, Princes House, 5 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh EH2 4RG
and on the web at <http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/>

Legislation relevant to this topic includes:

Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (HMSO) as amended.

Education (School and Placing Information) (Scotland) Regulation 1982 (S1 1982 No 950 (S.125)) and Amendment Etc. Regulations 1993.

Education (Appeal Committee Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations 1982 (S1 1982 No 1736)

Education (Placing in Schools and Deemed Decisions) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 (S1 185 No 1733)

Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004

Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009

Contacts: East Renfrewshire Council Offices – PLACING REQUEST, Education Department, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire G78 1SY Education Department: Telephone 0141 577 3578/3246 or email admissions@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Education: August 2016

For Consultation

Please read the accompanying "Making a Placing Request Guidance Information". Tick all of the boxes which apply.

<p>Parent/Carer or Young Person over 16</p> <p>Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other) _____</p> <p>Last name _____</p> <p>First name _____</p> <p>Home Address _____</p> <p>Postcode _____</p> <p>Telephone _____</p> <p>email Address: _____</p> <p>Child/Young Person</p> <p>Last name _____</p> <p>First name(s) _____</p> <p>Gender _____</p> <p>Date of Birth _____</p> <p>Current School</p> <p>Please give details of the school your child/young person presently attends, or at which he/she is registered for admission. <i>If you are applying for a place in a P1 class please state nursery school attended.</i></p> <p>Current School or Nursery _____</p> <p>Town _____</p> <p>School Requested</p> <p>Name of school _____</p> <p>Stage required _____</p> <p>Date to start _____</p> <p>Sibling Information</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The child/young person has a brother or sister already attending the school and will continue to do so next academic year. Please provide name(s) and stage(s)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Additional Support Needs</p> <p>Does the child/young person have any additional support needs? If so please specify, and attach any reports or evidence.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Vision</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hearing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Learning</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Physical Skills</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Language and Communication</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Behaviour</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other – please specify</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>If the child/young person is receiving additional support in the current school or nursery, what is the support and who provides it?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The child/young person has, or there is in preparation, or you have asked for an assessment for, a Coordinated Support Plan. (CSP)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is an external agency such as Social Work, Housing, Health, or Psychological Services is involved with the child/young person? If so please specify.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Support with English Language – for children whose first language is not English</p> <p>What is the first language of the child/young person?</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The child/young person will need support with English language.</p>
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Complete this section if you are applying for a priority to be given because the child/young person has a medical condition.

Such an application must be supported by a letter from your GP or other health professional, which must be attached to this application.

Explain what the condition is and why it is that only the requested school can provide for your child's medical condition.

Complete this section if you are applying for a priority to be given because the child/ young person is part of a single parent/carer family.

I am a single parent/carer

Details must be provided below to explain how the attendance of the child at the requested school will help with your child's care and welfare.

Complete this section if the application is for a place in stages S2 to S6 of a secondary school.

State subjects required and which level.

If there is any more information you want to give about your request, please use the space below, or attach a further sheet.

Declaration

I confirm that I have made myself fully aware of ERC's Placing Request Guidance Information before submitting this application form.

The information I have given is full and correct in every respect to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge that if the information that I have submitted is found to be fraudulent my placing request application will be rescinded and the Council may pass the matter to the Procurator Fiscal's Office.

I acknowledge that the form will be returned to me if I have not completed the application in full.

I understand that East Renfrewshire Council will not provide transport for pupils attending schools as a result of successful placing requests.

*Signature of
Parent/Carer or Young Person (if over 16)*

Date

Please send your completed form to:

PLACING REQUEST
East Renfrewshire Council Offices
Education Department
211 Main Street, Barrhead
East Renfrewshire G78 1SY
alternatively scan the completed form to :-
admissions@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Data Protection. The information you provide will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. It will be used in the administration of your request and may be shared with others with a relevant interest, in East Renfrewshire Council. Aug 2016

**Order of Priorities for Granting Placing Requests
to All Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools Effective
from January 2017**

Where the number of requests is greater than the number of places available, the priorities below are used to allocate places and are listed in order of priority:

1. The child is resident within the school's delineated catchment area.
2. In the case of a Roman Catholic school, the parent with whom the child resides is resident within the school's delineated catchment area and the child is a baptised Roman Catholic as evidenced by a baptismal certificate.
3. East Renfrewshire residents where the child has a medical condition, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
4. Non-East Renfrewshire residents where the child has a medical condition, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
5. East Renfrewshire residents: when applying for secondary schools children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary. This means that pupils who have attended the school for the longest time will have the highest priority.
6. Non-East Renfrewshire residents: when applying for secondary schools children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary. This means that pupils who have attended the school for the longest time will have the highest priority.
7. Those cases where a brother or sister attends the school and will continue in this school during the next session.
8. East Renfrewshire residents: the child is part of a single parent/carer family where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school. Please provide details with your application.
9. Non-East Renfrewshire residents: the child is part of a single parent/carer family where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school. Please provide details with your application.
10. East Renfrewshire residents with no other listed priority
11. Non-East Renfrewshire residents with no other listed priority.

Note: The criteria will be applied in the order shown above. If for any category the number of requests exceeds the number of places available, the next succeeding criteria will be used to prioritise these requests and so on until all priority criteria have been exhausted. If, after this process, two or more requests cannot be distinguished as having priority, then a ballot will be held to allocate the places available. This ballot will be organised by a senior education officer.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL : EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS AND THE TRANSFER OF PUPILS
FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY IN RESPECT OF ALL EAST RENFREWSHIRE ROMAN CATHOLIC AND
NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2017**

FORM FOR YOUR RESPONSE

ABOUT YOU

Name:

Address:

Post Code

Tick the box if we should keep your name and address confidential

Please tick either box:

I reside within East Renfrewshire

I do not reside within East Renfrewshire

Please select all that apply and complete as appropriate:

I am a Parent/Carer of a child/ children attending an East Renfrewshire Primary or Secondary School(s)
(Carer means the responsible adult with whom the young person lives)

Name(s) of my child(ren):

Name(s) of school(s) attending:

I am a Parent/Carer of a child/ children attending an East Renfrewshire Nursery/Family Centre(s)
(Carer means the responsible adult with whom the young person lives)

Name(s) of my child(ren):

Name(s) of nursery/ family centre(s)

I am a pupil at

I am a member of staff at

I am responding on behalf of a group or organisation.
Name of group/organisation

I am a parent/carer with a child/ children attending a non-East Renfrewshire school

I am related to/provide care to a young person attending one of the affected schools

Other (please specify

Please provide information to all sections. Should you not wish to specify some of the details in the ABOUT YOU section, we will still take your response into account.

WHAT YOU THINK (*tick only one box*)

- I agree with the proposal.
- I do not agree with the proposal.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR REASON(S)/ COMMENTS BELOW

The reason(s) I have for reaching my decision is/are:

Any other additional comment:

Signed

Send your reply to East Renfrewshire Council, Education Department, Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY, no later than midnight **Monday 10 October 2016.**

Pupil Consultation

on the

**Proposed Changes to the Arrangements
for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils
from Primary to Secondary in respect of
all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and
Non-Denominational Primary and
Secondary Schools Effective from
January 2017**

Report to the Director of Education

**Prepared by:
Stuart Allison and Marie Kelly
External Consultants
October 2016**

1. Process for Consultation with Pupils

- 1.1** East Renfrewshire Council Education Department undertook a consultation exercise on the proposal to change the arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary in respect of all non-denominational and denominational (Roman Catholic) schools to be effective from January 2017. The consultation period ran between 26 August 2016 and 10 October 2016.
- 1.2** As part of this process, the Council decided to consult with, and seek the views of pupils of each affected school deemed to be of suitable age and maturity. Consequently, Primary Four to Primary Seven and Secondary One to Secondary Six pupils in all East Renfrewshire primary and secondary schools and St. Angela's and St. Vincent's primary schools in Glasgow City Council would be consulted.
- 1.3** Two independent Education Consultants were tasked by the Education Department of the Council to carry out the consultation with the stage of pupils identified above in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 1.4** In structuring the consultation process with pupils, the consultants agreed with the Education Department that engagement of all Primary Four to Primary Seven and Secondary One to Secondary Six pupils would be best achieved through the involvement of the Pupil Councils in all affected schools to conduct the consultation exercise.
- 1.5** The following principles were applied in developing the consultation process:
 - Each school's Pupil Council should be given and take responsibility for managing the consultation exercise with pupils as best suited the structure for pupil voice within the school.
 - The time frame should be sufficient to allow meaningful engagement with Pupil Councils in order to involve and prepare them in planning and carrying out the consultation exercise. The consultants would provide background information about the proposal, advice and support for the Pupil Councils.
 - Pupil Councils would put in place mechanisms to provide an opportunity for all affected pupils to become informed and share their views.
 - There would be an appropriate timescale to ensure that all pupils would have a reasonable and fair opportunity to take part in the consultation.
 - Participation by pupils in the consultation exercise should be voluntary and not mandatory.
 - Pupils would also be advised that alternatively they can respond using the ERC on-line consultation or complete a hard paper copy of the response form and send it to the Education Department.
 - Pupil Councils should be supported by an identified member of staff to make the necessary arrangements within the school for the consultation exercise. School staff should not influence the views of Pupil Council members or pupils within the school. The identified member of staff should assist the Pupil Council members in the numerical collation of numbers/percentages in favour or against the proposal and assist the Pupil Council members to arrive at an overall conclusion on the proposal.
- 1.6** In line with the four capacities that underpin *Curriculum for Excellence*, it was envisaged that Pupil Councils having a central role in the process would ensure that pupils would perceive the consultation as fair and without a predetermined conclusion.
- 1.7** The Education Department sent out a letter to all Head Teachers to advise them of the appointment of independent consultants, the process for consultation with pupils and the arrangements for briefing and presenting to two representatives of Pupil Councils and a member of staff with responsibility for the Pupil Council from each of the affected schools.
- 1.8** In order to support Pupil Council members deliver consistent and accurate information across all the affected schools, the consultants prepared a standard presentation to take

each Pupil Council through the key aspects of the proposal and to support them deliver the key information to their peers (Appendix 1). The presentation also included advice to Pupil Councils in carrying out the consultation with their peers and on how to record pupils' views on the Pupil Council response form. Information was also provided on how Pupil Councils' responses would be used.

- 1.9** The consultants prepared a presentation for staff with responsibility for the Pupil Council from each of the affected schools (Appendix 2). The standard presentation to Pupil Council representatives was used with staff with one additional slide clarifying the role of staff in supporting the Pupil Council with the consultation exercise.
- 1.10** In addition, the consultants prepared a short briefing paper for Pupil Councils containing a summary of the key issues within the full formal consultation document and a Pupil Council response form (Appendix 3).
- 1.11** Following agreement on the consultation process with the Education Department, one consultant gave a presentation to two representatives of each of the affected Primary and Secondary Pupil Councils outlining East Renfrewshire Council's proposal. A paper copy of the presentation, the briefing paper and response form were issued to each pupil representative.
- 1.12** Simultaneously, the other consultant gave a presentation to staff representative(s) of each of the affected primary and secondary schools outlining East Renfrewshire Council's proposal. A paper copy of the presentation, the briefing paper and response form were issued to each staff representative.
- 1.13** Pupil Council members, with the support of a member of staff, were tasked with explaining the proposal of East Renfrewshire Council, the process for responding to the consultation and the ways in which pupils could respond if they wished.
- 1.14** Following the briefing and presentation to pupil and staff representatives, each school was provided with electronic copies of the presentation to pupils, the briefing paper for Pupil Councils and the Pupil Council response form.
- 1.15** Following the conclusion of the consultation, the Pupil Councils' responses to the consultation would be collated and analysed by the consultants and a written report would be prepared for the Director of Education.

2. Report on the Schools Consultation Exercise

Briefing Meetings

- 2.1** The presentations to Pupil Council representatives and staff representatives were very successful. Sixty two pupils and thirty four teachers from the thirty-one affected schools attended the presentations on 21 September 2016. Pupils were enthusiastic and excited by the prospect of their leadership of the consultation exercise. Staff with responsibility for the Pupil Councils were highly supportive and planned to hold further meetings with the Pupil Councils to ensure pupils were confident in their task and support them with the process of the consultation exercise. Both pupils and staff were aware of the need for meaningful engagement with pupils in this consultation exercise.

Consultation Methodology

- 2.2** All schools made good use of the materials prepared by the external consultants. Pupil Councils carried out the consultation exercise by using appropriate organisational structures within their schools. As a result there were slight variations in the manner which schools conducted the exercise.

Almost all primary schools presented the proposal through P4 to P7 stage, grouped stage assemblies or within class groupings. The majority of schools used a survey proforma or questionnaire. Two of the primary schools made use of an on-line survey.

In the secondary sector, almost all schools presented the proposal through year group assemblies. One school used the timetabled year group religious education classes to consult with pupils. Two schools carried out a sampling process. Four secondary schools used either a survey proforma or questionnaire.

All approaches used by the schools were robust in obtaining pupils' views. The detail concerning individual school approaches are provided in Appendix 4.

Written Responses

- 2.3** The written responses of pupils to the Consultation Exercise are collated in Appendix 5. This appendix details the main reasons for the overall conclusion and any additional comments provided by the pupils for each school.

Overall Conclusions

- 2.4** Appendix 6 provides a detailed stage by stage analysis. Two primary schools were unable to provide stage details due to the manner in which they conducted a ballot. In the primary sector there were 453 pupils and in secondary sector 566 pupils who chose not to express a view on the proposal which represents 8.7% and 10.4% respectively of all those consulted.

A summary table of pupil responses is provided below.

Pupils	Total Agree	% Agree	Total Disagree	% Disagree
P4 to P7	2400	50.8	2326	49.2
S1 to S6	2799	57.1	2100	42.9
All Pupils	5199	54.0	4426	46.0

The percentage of pupils in Primary 4 to Primary 7 in favour of the proposal was 50.8%. The majority of the primary pupils agreed with the proposal.

The percentage of pupils in Secondary 1 to Secondary 6 in favour of the proposal was 57.1%. The majority of the secondary pupils agreed with the proposal.

The overall percentage of pupils agreeing with the proposal was 54%. Overall the majority of pupils agreed with the proposal.

A summary table of school responses is provided below.

Schools	Total Agree	% Agree	Total Disagree	% Disagree
Primary	14	58.3	10	41.7
Secondary	5	71.4	2	28.6
All Schools	19	61.3	12	38.7

The percentage of Primary Schools in favour of the proposal was 58.3%. The majority of the primary schools agreed with the proposal.

The percentage of Secondary schools in favour of the proposal was 71.4%. Most of the secondary schools agreed with the proposal.

The overall percentage of schools agreeing with the proposal was 61.3%. Overall the majority of schools agreed with the proposal.

Appendix 1 – Pupil Council Briefing Presentation

Pupil Consultation Exercise



Pupil Council Briefing
September 2016

What is this exercise about?

- A consultation exercise to find out the views of pupils to East Renfrewshire Council's proposed changes to:
 - Arrangements for Admissions and Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary Schools in respect of all Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools
- To take effect from January 2017.

Proposal for Consultation

- The Council is consulting on the proposals to change the admission and transfer arrangements for Roman Catholic (RC) and Non-Denominational (ND) primary and secondary schools from January 2017.
- This will mean a single set of school admissions criteria for RC and non-denominational schools to meet the high demand for places, but in particular those seeking a place in a RC school.

Schools Affected

- The schools affected by the proposals are:
 - All ER primary and secondary schools
 - St. Angela's and St. Vincent's primary schools in Glasgow City Council
- Calderwood Lodge PS, which is a Jewish faith school, has a different set of admissions arrangements and there are no plans to change these.

What are the changes?

- The council are consulting on changes to the admission / transfer arrangements to:
 - Give priority to RC baptised children if they live in the school's catchment in the event that a RC school is oversubscribed
 - In cases of oversubscription children not of the RC faith will be offered a place in their local non-denominational school
 - The policy will only be used in the event that the school is oversubscribed.

What are the changes?

- The proposed arrangements would also mean changes to:
 - Pupils seeking a place at an ERC school if they live outwith the Council area because placing request priority will be given to ER residents in all cases other than siblings
 - The current order of placing request criteria to give greater priority to children already at an associated primary when applying for S1 place.

Proposed Order of Priorities for Granting Placing Requests to all Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Schools

1. The child is resident within the school's **delineated catchment area**.
2. In the case of a RC school, the parent with whom the child resides is resident within the school's **delineated catchment area** and the child is a **baptised RC** as evidenced by a baptismal certificate.
3. **ERC residents** where the child has a **medical condition**, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
4. **Non-ERC** residents where the child has a **medical condition**, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.

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Proposed Order of Priorities for Granting Placing Requests to all Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Schools

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5. **ERC residents**: when applying for secondary schools children who attend a **primary school associated** with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary.
6. **Non-ERC residents**: when applying for secondary schools children who attend a **primary school associated** with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary.
7. Those cases where a **brother or sister** attends the school and will continue in this school during the next session.

What are the changes?

- The proposed arrangements would:
 - Come into effect for applications for a place in RC and ND schools from January 2017
 - All pupils entitled to a place under current arrangements and enrolled by end of December 2016 remain entitled.
- Temporary accommodation would be created at St. Ninian's HS to accommodate children already in P1-P3.

Why are the changes necessary?

- High demand for places in ERC schools.
- More and more ERC families are choosing a RC school for their children and RC schools are now becoming oversubscribed in the east of the council area.
- There is a sizeable percentage of pupils who live outwith the council area.
- There is space in the very high performing ND schools and the Council must use all available space.

How are you going to do the pupil consultation?

- We would like Pupil Council representatives to take the key points of this consultation to P4-P7 and S1-S6 pupils and give them an opportunity to discuss them.
- Pupils will then have time over the next couple of weeks to think about their response and make their views known to you, the Pupil Council.

How are you going to do the pupil consultation?

- When you speak to the pupils you will need to communicate:
 - What the consultation is about
 - Emphasise the voluntary nature of involvement. Anyone can choose not to participate or opt out at any point
 - Give the main points surrounding the changes being proposed (the presentation today).

How are you going to do the pupil consultation?

- When you speak to the pupils you will need to communicate views expressed to the Pupil Council will:
 - Be treated as anonymous
 - Not be attributed to a named pupil
 - Be recorded to complete the Pupil Council response form.

How are you going to do the pupil consultation?

- When you speak to the pupils you will need to:
 - Let the pupils know they can alternatively make their views known by going on-line and completing an electronic response form, or
 - Complete a hard copy of the response form and post it to the Education Department.

Pupil Council Response Form

PUPIL COUNCIL RESPONSE FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY IN BLOCK CAPITALS. PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS IN FULL. PLEASE PRINT YOUR SCHOOL AND POSTAL CODE. PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME AND ADDRESS IN FULL. PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S SCHOOL AND POSTAL CODE. PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S SCHOOL AND POSTAL CODE.

NAME: _____

THE FORM PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUPILS, PUPILS' COUNCILS AND PUPILS' COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLACING PUPILS IN RC AND ND SCHOOLS. PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME AND ADDRESS IN FULL. PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S SCHOOL AND POSTAL CODE. PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S SCHOOL AND POSTAL CODE.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME AND ADDRESS IN FULL. PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S SCHOOL AND POSTAL CODE. PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S SCHOOL AND POSTAL CODE.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME AND ADDRESS IN FULL. PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S SCHOOL AND POSTAL CODE. PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S SCHOOL AND POSTAL CODE.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME AND ADDRESS IN FULL. PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S SCHOOL AND POSTAL CODE. PLEASE PRINT YOUR PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S SCHOOL AND POSTAL CODE.

- Form completed with the support of a member of staff.

Pupil Council Response Form

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY OTHER ADDITIONAL COMMENT ARISING FROM THE PUPIL CONSULTATION

Submitted by: _____

Submitted by Member of Staff: _____

E-mail address for follow-up: _____

Download Pupil Council response form in Spanish [Click Here](#) or in French [Click Here](#)
Aileen Stanger ais@renfrewshire.gov.uk

- Form returned no later than Monday 10th October 2016.

How will pupils' views be used?

- Pupil Councils' responses to the consultation exercise will be collated and analysed by the consultants.
- A report on the responses will be written.
- The report will be passed to East Renfrewshire Council.
- The Director of Education will report on the results of the consultation to the Education Committee in December 2016.
- Pupils in all schools will be informed of the results of the consultation.

Any questions?

Good Luck!



Appendix 2 – Staff Briefing Presentation

Pupil Consultation Exercise



Staff Briefing
September 2016

What is this exercise about?

- A consultation exercise to find out the views of pupils to East Renfrewshire Council's proposed changes to:
 - Arrangements for Admissions and Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary Schools in respect of all Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools
- To take effect from January 2017.

Proposal for Consultation

- The Council is consulting on the proposals to change the admission and transfer arrangements for Roman Catholic (RC) and Non-Denominational (ND) primary and secondary schools from January 2017.
- This will mean a single set of school admissions criteria for RC and non-denominational schools to meet the high demand for places, but in particular those seeking a place in a RC school.

Schools Affected

- The schools affected by the proposals are:
 - All ER primary and secondary schools
 - St. Angela's and St. Vincent's primary schools in Glasgow City Council
- Calderwood Lodge PS, which is a Jewish faith school, has a different set of admissions arrangements and there are no plans to change these.

What are the changes?

- The council are consulting on changes to the admission / transfer arrangements to:
 - Give priority to RC baptised children if they live in the school's catchment in the event that a RC school is oversubscribed
 - In cases of oversubscription children not of the RC faith will be offered a place in their local non-denominational school
 - The policy will only be used in the event that the school is oversubscribed.

What are the changes?

- The proposed arrangements would also mean changes to:
 - Pupils seeking a place at an ERC school if they live outwith the Council area because placing request priority will be given to ER residents in all cases other than siblings
 - The current order of placing request criteria to give greater priority to children already at an associated primary when applying for S1 place.

Proposed Order of Priorities for Granting Placing Requests to all Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Schools

1. The child is resident within the school's **delineated catchment area**.
2. In the case of a RC school, the parent with whom the child resides is resident within the school's **delineated catchment area** and the child is a **baptised RC** as evidenced by a baptismal certificate.
3. **ERC residents** where the child has a **medical condition**, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
4. **Non-ERC residents** where the child has a **medical condition**, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.

Proposed Order of Priorities for Granting Placing Requests to all Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Schools

5. **ERC residents**: when applying for secondary schools children who attend a **primary school associated** with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary.
6. **Non-ERC residents**: when applying for secondary schools children who attend a **primary school associated** with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary.
7. Those cases where a **brother or sister** attends the school and will continue in this school during the next session.

Proposed Order of Priorities for Granting Placing Requests to all Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Schools

- 8. **ERC residents:** the child is part of a **single parent/carer family** where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school.
- 9. **Non-ERC residents:** the child is part of a **single parent/carer family** where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school.
- 10. **ERC residents with no other** listed priority.
- 11. **Non-ERC residents with no other** listed priority.

What are the changes?

- The proposed arrangements would:
 - Come into effect for applications for a place in RC and ND schools from January 2017
 - All pupils entitled to a place under current arrangements and enrolled by end of December 2016 remain entitled.
- Temporary accommodation would be created at St. Ninian's HS to accommodate children already in P1-P3.

Why are the changes necessary?

- High demand for places in ERC schools.
- More and more ERC families are choosing a RC school for their children and RC schools are now becoming oversubscribed in the east of the council area.
- There is a sizeable percentage of pupils who live outwith the council area.
- There is space in the very high performing ND schools and the Council must use all available space.

How are you going to do the pupil consultation?

- We would like Pupil Council representatives to take the key points of this consultation to P4-P7 and S1-S6 pupils and give them an opportunity to discuss them.
- Pupils will then have time over the next couple of weeks to think about their response and make their views known to you, the Pupil Council.

How are you going to do the pupil consultation?

- When you speak to the pupils you will need to communicate:
 - What the consultation is about
 - Emphasise the voluntary nature of involvement. Anyone can choose not to participate or opt out at any point
 - Give the main points surrounding the changes being proposed (the presentation today).

How are you going to do the pupil consultation?

- When you speak to the pupils you will need to communicate views expressed to the Pupil Council will:
 - Be treated as anonymous
 - Not be attributed to a named pupil
 - Be recorded to complete the Pupil Council response form.

How are you going to do the pupil consultation?

- When you speak to the pupils you will need to:
 - Let the pupils know they can alternatively make their views known by going on-line and completing an electronic response form, or
 - Complete a hard copy of the response form and post it to the Education Department.

Pupil Council Response Form

PUPIL COUNCIL RESPONSE FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY IN CAPITAL LETTERS. THIS FORM IS FOR THE USE OF PUPILS ONLY. IT IS NOT TO BE COMPLETED BY PUPILS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS OR PUPILS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ON A PUPIL PROTECTION ORDER. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE.

NAME: _____

THE FORM PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUPILS, PUPILS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND PUPILS COUNCIL MEMBERS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PLACING REQUESTS POLICY. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE PUPIL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR ANSWERS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE YOUR ANSWERS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE YOUR ANSWERS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE YOUR ANSWERS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED.

- Form completed with the support of a member of staff.

Pupil Council Response Form

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY OTHER ADDITIONAL COMMENT ARISING FROM THE PUPIL CONSULTATION

Submitted by: _____

Submitted by (Name of Staff): _____

E-mail address for follow-up: _____

Download Full Council response form in the [Booklet](#) or [Click Here](#) to view the form. For more information, please contact Admin@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

- Form returned no later than Monday 10th October 2016.

Support by Staff

- Support the PC members with the arrangements within the school.
- Do **not** influence the views of PC members or pupils within the school.
- Assist the PC members in numerical collation of numbers, percentages in favour or against etc. at year / stage / class level.
- Assist the PC members to arrive at a definitive conclusion on the proposal.
- Email response to M Hart by the deadline of 10 October 2016.

How will pupils' views be used?

- Pupil Councils' responses to the consultation exercise will be collated and analysed by the consultants.
- A report on the responses will be written.
- The report will be passed to East Renfrewshire Council.
- The Director of Education will report on the results of the consultation to the Education Committee in December 2016.
- Pupils in all schools will be informed of the results of the consultation.

Any questions?

Good Luck!



Briefing Paper for Pupil Councils



Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences

Briefing Paper for Pupil Councils

Consultation Summary

East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) has started a public consultation for interested individuals and groups to have their say on proposed changes to admissions arrangements for its primary and secondary schools.

The Council are proposing to put in place a single set of admissions criteria for their Roman Catholic and non-denominational schools to ensure that they continue to meet the high demand for places from people living in the area, but in particular those seeking a place at a Roman Catholic school.

Calderwood Lodge Primary School, which is a Jewish faith school, has a different set of admissions arrangements and there are no plans to change these as part of this consultation.

This is a summary of the key issues within the full formal consultation document.

Introduction

ERC has a reputation as Scotland's leading local authority for the provision of consistently high quality education for children and young people. Because of this success there is a high demand for places in ERC schools and in recent years this has increased significantly. In particular there has been a significant increase in demand for places in schools within the east of the council area – especially within the following Roman Catholic schools:

- Our Lady of the Missions Primary School
- St. Cadoc's Primary School
- St. Joseph's Primary School
- St. Ninian's High School.

The ERC area now has the highest proportion of 10 – 14 year olds in the country and the number of 0-15 year-olds in our area is the second highest proportion anywhere in Scotland. Meanwhile rates of families moving into East Renfrewshire continue to grow.

ERC has already taken steps to address increased demand at schools by providing additional accommodation and increasing teacher numbers and classes where necessary.

There has also been huge investment to provide even more new and extended nursery and school accommodation. However despite these significant measures, the rate at which demand is now increasing means these actions will still not provide the capacity needed to meet the desire for Roman Catholic school places in future years. Many of these schools are in fact either at or approaching full capacity.

ERC is therefore consulting on new admissions arrangements which will provide a fair and equitable solution to these issues and ensure availability of Roman Catholic places for children whose families want them to be educated in their Roman Catholic faith environment.

The Proposed Way Forward

ERC is proposing to change current admissions arrangements to give priority to Roman Catholic baptised children if they live in the school's catchment in the event that a Roman Catholic school is oversubscribed.

In cases of oversubscription children not of the Roman Catholic faith will therefore be offered a place in their local non-denominational catchment school. It is important to stress that this policy will only be used in the event that the school is oversubscribed.

However ERC analysis shows that we have and will continue to have sufficient places for East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic families.

Families of other faiths or no faith will still be able to apply for a place at a Roman Catholic school if they wish. At times of peak demand in certain years there may only be a limited number of places available in high occupancy schools for children not of the Roman Catholic faith, however in other years we do anticipate that places will still be available.

The practice of requesting a baptismal certificate is not new in Scotland and is already a practice adopted by a number of Local Authorities.

Moving to this new model of admissions will ensure that ERC can continue to provide Roman Catholic baptised children with an education in their faith environment and also better use the available capacity across the entire school estate. ERC will also be able to reduce the increasing reality of high occupancy rates at certain sites which is not the best solution for either our pupils or teaching staff.

The proposed arrangements would also mean changes for pupils seeking a place at an ERC school if they live outwith the Council area because placing request priority will be given to East Renfrewshire residents in all cases other than siblings.

In addition, ERC is also proposing to change the current order of placing request criteria to give greater priority to children already at an associated primary when applying for a S1 place. This is as opposed to the current arrangement which prioritises children who already have a sibling at the secondary school being applied for.

These proposed new arrangements would create a single set of admissions criteria for ERC primary and secondary schools regardless of denomination (with the exception of Calderwood Lodge). However, the new policy primarily affects those wishing a place at one of our Roman Catholic schools.

All pupils already at our schools are unaffected by these proposals as ERC will honour all existing arrangements for children currently in all our schools. Temporary accommodation would be created at St. Ninian's to accommodate children already in Primary 1 – 3 who are due to progress to St. Ninian's for their senior education.

The proposed changes will only apply to new primary and secondary pupils from January 2017 onwards.

It is also important to stress that these proposed arrangements will see no changes to existing school catchment areas or re-zoning anywhere in ERC.

The Proposed Order of Priorities for Granting Placing Requests to All Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools Effective from January 2017.

Where the number of requests is greater than the number of places available, the priorities below are used to allocate places and are listed in order of priority:

1. The child is resident within the school's delineated catchment area.
2. In the case of a Roman Catholic school, the parent with whom the child resides is resident within the school's delineated catchment area and the child is a baptised Roman Catholic as evidenced by a baptismal certificate.
3. East Renfrewshire residents where the child has a medical condition, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
4. Non-East Renfrewshire residents where the child has a medical condition, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
5. East Renfrewshire residents: when applying for secondary schools children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary. This means that pupils who have attended the school for the longest time will have the highest priority.
6. Non-East Renfrewshire residents: when applying for secondary schools children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary. This means that pupils who have attended the school for the longest time will have the highest priority.
7. Those cases where a brother or sister attends the school and will continue in this school during the next session.
8. East Renfrewshire residents: the child is part of a single parent/carer family where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school. Please provide details with your application.

9. Non-East Renfrewshire residents: the child is part of a single parent/carer family where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school. Please provide details with your application.
10. East Renfrewshire residents with no other listed priority.
11. Non-East Renfrewshire residents with no other listed priority.

Note: The criteria will be applied in the order shown above. If for any category the number of requests exceeds the number of places available, the next succeeding criteria will be used to prioritise these requests and so on until all priority criteria have been exhausted. If, after this process, two or more requests cannot be distinguished as having priority, then a ballot will be held to allocate the places available. This ballot will be organised by a senior education officer.

The proposed new arrangements would mean a small change to the current transport policy in that any pupil admitted to a school through a placing request would not be entitled to Council provided transport except if their designated catchment school is oversubscribed and they would also qualify under home to school distance.

Tell us what your Pupil Council thinks

The ERC consultation on these proposed changes runs from 26th August 2016 to 10th October 2016.

The full consultation document contains more detail on the need for change and the various options considered by ERC and sets out why, after detailed analysis, ERC has arrived at the consultation proposal.

Pupils' comments, views and feedback on the proposal will be sought through the Pupil Council structures within the school. A Pupil Council Response Form has been provided for Pupil Councils to collate the views of pupils and is attached to this document.

The Pupil Council Response Form should be e-mailed no later than Monday 10th October 2016 to Mary Hart, Senior Admin Manager at: Mary.Hart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

In addition individual pupils can respond using the ERC online consultation; or alternatively complete a hard copy of the response form which is attached to the full consultation document and post it to the Education Department.

Hard copies of the full consultation document are available at the schools affected, local libraries or at the Council's Head Office, Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire, G46 6UG and at the Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY. An electronic version can also be accessed at the East Renfrewshire Council website www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolconsultation

The link below provides more information about the consultation process including the respective roles and responsibilities of the local authority, Education Scotland and the Scottish Government; in particular how parents / carers can play their part.

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00492810.pdf>

Schools Affected

The schools affected by the proposals are:

- all East Renfrewshire primary and secondary schools
- St. Angela's and St. Vincent's primary schools in Glasgow City Council.

PUPIL COUNCIL RESPONSE FORM

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS AND THE TRANSFER OF PUPILS FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY IN RESPECT OF ALL EAST RENFREWSHIRE ROMAN CATHOLIC AND NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2017

SCHOOL:

THIS FORM PROVIDES THE VIEWS OF THE SCHOOL PUPIL COUNCIL(S)

BRIEFLY STATE THE NUMBER OF PUPILS CONSULTED AND HOW THE PUPIL CONSULTATION WAS CARRIED OUT

State the number of pupils consulted and their stage/year groups.

State how the pupil consultation was carried out, e.g. at stage/year group assemblies, in class groups etc.

OVERALL WHAT CONCLUSION DID THE PUPIL CONSULTATION ARRIVE AT

(Please tick only one box)

- Pupils agreed with the proposal.
- Pupils did not agree with the proposal.

PLEASE WRITE THE MAIN REASON(S) / COMMENTS BELOW

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY OTHER ADDITIONAL COMMENT EMERGING FROM THE PUPIL CONSULTATION

Submitted by: _____

Supported by Member of Staff: _____

E-mail address for further contact: _____

Email your Pupil Council's response form no later than **Monday 10th October 2016** to Mary Hart, Senior Admin Manager: Mary.Hart@eastrenfreshire.gov.uk

Appendix 4 – Method of Consultation

Primary Schools – Method of Consultation

School	Method of Consultation
Braidbar PS	Child friendly PowerPoint presented to P4-P7 pupils. Pupils completed an online survey to give their views.
Busby PS	Members of the Pupil Council made presentations to P4 to P7 classes. Using PowerPoint the purpose and key information was explained to the pupils. Individual pupils voted anonymously as to whether they agreed or disagreed with the proposals. A box allowed pupils to give reasons for their view. The voting sheets were collected by the Pupil Council Class Representatives and separated into stages, and then into agree and disagree. The results were then counted and with the help of a member of staff percentages were calculated.
Calderwood Lodge PS	Consultation done through class groupings, P4 and P5 together and P6 & P7 together in class.
Carlibar PS	The Pupil Council visited P4 to P7 classes and shared information and recorded pupil responses.
Carolside PS	Pupil Council representatives presented a PowerPoint to the whole Pupil Council. The PowerPoint presentation was shared at P4-P7 assembly. Following the assembly pupils completed an individual response form to record if they agree or disagree with proposal and there was space for additional comments.
Crookfur PS	The Pupil Council met with the head teacher and discussed consultation process. The Pupil Council amended the consultation PowerPoint presentation, showed the presentation to each class and gave the pupils some time to think. The Pupil Council returned to each class and collected their votes and views.
Cross Arthurlie PS	The proposal was explained at P4-P7 assembly. The proposal was discussed in each class and the pupils' voted.
Eaglesham PS	Children were informed of the new criteria at an assembly. They then completed a Citizen Space survey online.
Giffnock PS	Information was shared with pupil council reps at a pupil council meeting. Information was then shared at an assembly for all pupils in P4-7. A ballot was held in each class using individual ballot papers. The Pupil Council counted the votes, discussed the numerical results and comments and reached an overall conclusion.
Kirkhill PS	Two Pupil Council members briefed each class about the changes. The children within each class were then given a slip to vote on. Votes were counted by Pupil Council leaders.
Mearns PS	Consultants' PowerPoint delivered at assembly for all Primary 4-7 classes.
Neilston PS	The Pupil Consultation was carried out at a P4-P7 assembly.
Netherlee PS	The proposals were introduced and explained at assembly. Each class was given the opportunity to discuss the proposals further and take a vote in class. The overall results were collated by the Pupil Council.

School	Method of Consultation
O.L.O.M. PS	Each class from P4-P7 were delivered the same presentation in their classes from their Pupil Council Representative. Pupils had time to complete an anonymous ballot form.
Springhill & Auchenback PS	Pupil Council representatives led an assembly for all P4-P7 pupils. Each class then discussed the proposal in their classes and the comments noted by Pupil Council representatives.
St. Angela's PS	The consultation was carried out by first having a meeting of the Pupil Council and we discussed what we were going to say to the other pupils. The Pupil Council decided to go to each class one at a time to speak as that would let people ask questions, discuss and decide in smaller numbers. We thought that smaller numbers would make sure that every pupil had the chance to speak and be listened to. In total we held 7 class assemblies – two P4 classes, two P5 classes, one P6 class, one P6/7 class and two P7 classes.
St. Cadoc's PS	P7 Pupil Council representatives delivered the presentation to P4 and P5 and P6 and P7 assemblies. All pupils were given the opportunity ask questions throughout the presentation. Pupils were then given time to think about their response to the proposal and were asked to complete a consultation slip the following day, if they wished to do so. Pupils were advised that this would be anonymous and voluntary. All pupils were made aware of the alternative ways of sharing their views and the deadline for doing so.
St. John's PS	Pupil Council met with classes individually and presented to P4 to P7 classes. The Pupil Council felt by working with pupils in class they would be able to focus more and would feel more confident about asking questions.
St. Joseph's PS	Consultation carried out in year groups.
St. Mark's PS	Pupil Council presented a PowerPoint to 192 pupils from P4-7 at an assembly using briefing details. Pupil council representatives visited each class to give sheet for pupils to tick agree/disagree and make a comment explaining their main reasons.
St. Thomas' PS	Pupil Council representatives spoke to the children at an assembly. Pupils were asked their view and to give a reason(s) for their opinion.
St. Vincent's PS	Consultation carried out in class groups.
Thornliebank PS	Pupil Council explained the proposal at P4-P7 assembly. Pupil Council representatives handed out and gathered in consultation slips in class. Pupils able to tick one of three boxes: agree, disagree or prefer not to say and add comments if they wished. 1 consultation slip was spoiled.
Uplawmoor PS	PowerPoint presentation made to year groups P4 to P7. The children were split into discussion groups to talk about the proposals. Pupil Council representatives who attended the briefing meeting walked around each group to help them understand the issues. Each group feedback on their discussions and the main issues as they saw them.

Secondary Schools – Method of Consultation

School	Method of Consultation
Barrhead HS	The S6 Leadership team presented at year group assemblies where all new proposals were discussed and explained. Following the presentation a short survey was handed out to all pupils which asked whether or not they agreed with the new proposals and to give reasons why they did or why they did not agree. The surveys were filled in during Pastoral periods and returned after which the results were collated.
Eastwood HS	All years were consulted by the Pupil Council in year group assemblies. The proposals were presented with a PowerPoint and pupils were asked their opinions with a very brief questionnaire.
Mearns Castle HS	The information was shared with the whole school through the pupil newsletter, school website, plasma screens and on each of the pupil information boards. Each year group was sampled. Pupils were taken out of Citizenship classes and attended special presentations led by the Head Boy/Girl and a Depute Head. The overall sample constituted approximately 23% of the whole school from S1-S6.
St. Luke's HS	The consultation exercise was carried out in religious education classes with each year group.
St. Ninian's HS	PowerPoint presentation to all pupils at year group assemblies. Following this in Personal, Social and Health Education classes, all pupils were asked to complete a questionnaire stating whether they were in agreement or not with the proposed changes and asked to record their reasons and comment on the information in the PowerPoint presentation.
Williamwood HS	All pupils in the school were consulted through year group assemblies. A presentation was delivered by the head teacher, pupils were then given an opportunity to discuss the presentation with the person next to them and pupils then responded in writing on a proforma provided.
Woodfarm HS	Timetable suspended for one period to show the PowerPoint presentation to all pupils. Forty-five pupils attended a lunchtime voluntary consultation. Approximately 20% of pupils across the year groups were selected at random to attend an assembly for further consultation and vote.

Primary Pupil Councils – Main Reasons / Additional Comments

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
Braidbar PS Overall Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should be able to send their child to any school they want. • There shouldn't be schools just for Catholics. • It's not fair for children to be split from their brothers and sisters. • I think that every child has the right to go to the school they live close too. • I don't think non-Catholic children should go to Catholic schools. • Schools should be missed for any children. 	
Busby PS Overall Agree	<p>For</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reasons are fair. • I think it is important to give priority to pupils in the area. • It makes everything clear and fair. • It makes sure people who live there get priority. • It is more structured. • It will help high populated schools and it is fair. • If the schools are full no one else can get in it is a good way to sort and it is fair. <p>Against</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is fair that people who live closest are selected first. • It would make it unfair for some people. • Your friends might have to go to another school. 	
Calderwood Lodge PS Overall Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is fair the way it is as everyone should be able to go to the school of their choice. • Schools should be diverse. 	
Carlibar PS Overall Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair those close to the school get priority. • RC children should get priority in RC schools. • Going to a local school is important for friendship reasons. • Children may be split up from friends. • Right to an education and should be able to choose where that education is. • Names should be picked out of a hat because that is fair. 	

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
Carolside PS Overall Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who agree feel that children should be able to go to a catholic school as they have the right to do that and that people living in East Renfrewshire should get a place at their local school over other non-residents. I agree with the changes and showing proof of your faith because you have the right to a religion and to learn at a school that follows that faith. I see both sides of the argument but it isn't fair on people who are of a certain faith not to be able to go to that specific school if people from other faiths get there before them. I agree with the changes as the schools are full and you should get to go to the school you want. 	
Crookfur PS Overall Disagree	<p><u>Disagree</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I had more of a chance before. I think priority 5-7 should be higher. <p><u>Agree</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think priority 5 is fair. I think priority 7 is fair. This is better than the list before. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How come you get in first if you have a medical condition? I want the catchment area to change.
Cross Arthurlie PS Overall Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are not RC there isn't the same need to attend an RC school. If RC schools are already very busy something needs to be done to stop overcrowding. It would be unfair for RC families not to get a place at an RC school. RC schools should be for RC families only. ERC families should go to ERC schools before children from outwith ERC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who disagreed did so because of friendship groups and the proximity of their homes to an RC school rather than a non-denominational school.

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
<p>Eglesham PS</p> <p>Overall Disagree</p>	<p>Agree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P4 – It's not fair if you are Catholic and don't get into a catholic school. P5 – This decision should be for adults. P6 – I don't think our schools should fill up with people not from ERC. P7 – Roman Catholic children should get first spaces because all the other schools are fine and it's not a better standard of education at a RC school so people should just go if they go to church every Sunday. <p>Disagree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P4 – Children should have the right to learn no matter what school, Children should go to any school. They'd be split up from their friends. P5 – It's not fair. P6 – Pupils have the right to choose their school as it's their future. P7 – This will affect children going to St Ninian's and some people want to really go there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of children did not really understand why they were being asked. Many stated that they did not make the decision about which schools they attended. They felt their parents made the decision when they were younger.
<p>Giffnock PS</p> <p>Overall Disagree</p>	<p>P4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am speechless. This is disgraceful. Please do not. I disagree because it is not fair. I do not agree because I live far away. <p>P5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am struggling to understand it. <p>P6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't find it fair because it doesn't let you go to the school of your choice. I agree with some of them, but not all of them. <p>P7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think that non Roman Catholic people shouldn't go to Roman Catholic schools. That seems fair. So there is more room in schools like Woodfarm. It isn't fair that people are still getting separated by religion. It puts the wrong message to children. I don't think it's fair as people who live in the same community might not get in. I think you should go to any school you want. 	

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
Kirkhill PS Overall Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think that is perfect! Disabled people should get first choice. I think they shouldn't because there is so many. No because it's not fair because someone who is a different religion shouldn't go to a different school- we're all the same. Anyone should be able to go to any school no matter what religion. I think that the first person to say that they want to go to a certain school should get to go. I think that every child should be given a space in the same way except for medical stuff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think it is better that if you really follow the faith you get in. I think this is a great idea. I think it is fine. I think it is fair. It is fair that children who live (there) should get spaces first. I think it's unfair because every child has the same rights. I think that every child should get the same chance. I think if you are any religion you should get the same chance. No because everyone doesn't get equal rights then. I don't think it's fair that other (religions) are not allowed in Roman Catholic schools first.
Mearns PS Overall Disagree	<p>Agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's fair if you live in East Renfrewshire. It would be easier for parents to drive two children to school, the new proposals are fair. Should take into account the catchment area but fair way to make final decision. Less pressure for people making decisions. If someone has a disability then they would get a school with a lift. It is fair, people should go to schools nearer where they live. <p>Disagreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than one school means more than one school run. Brothers and sisters should go to the same school and it's difficult for families, also it would be soon for the current P7. Everyone should go to the school they want. You might not be able to go to the same school as your friends. Parents may want children to go to another school. Older siblings may be in a school not in your catchment area. People may have to travel further. 	

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
Neilston PS Overall Agree	<p>Agree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An easier way to get people into high schools. • Everyone gets a decent education. • Easier to get people into school and no overcrowding. • Don't need to keep building other schools – being Eco friendly. • Schools not getting full. • Money won't be wasted and it can be used on other things. <p>Disagree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be hard if a mum had to take one child to one school and one to another • They should build more houses and more schools. 	
Netherlee PS Overall Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We think brothers and sisters should have a greater chance of going to the same school. • It should not just be Catholic children that have priority to go to a Catholic School. • It shouldn't matter what religion you are. Roman Catholics should not be prioritised over others. It's unfair. • Everyone should get a fair chance to get into the high school of their choice. 	
O.L.O.M. PS Overall Agree	<p>Main reasons for agreeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's a fair way to give places to Catholic children living in the catchment area first. • Since it is a Catholic school, Catholic children should have priority. • I don't want to go to a school that is too full. • I agree because there are many non-denominational schools but people who are Catholic are having to go to a non-denominational school so they don't learn about their religion. <p>Main reasons for disagreeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't find it fair because we are all the same and all friends. • I disagree because I don't think it's fair to not go to the school you want to. • It is not fair for other religious kinds. • I disagree because non-catholic people have lots of catholic friends and have been going to school together for 7 years and then they won't be able to go to school together (there would be less chance). 	

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
Springhill & Auchenback PS Overall Agree	<p>For</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic children have a right to go to Catholic schools. • It sounds fair. • I agree with the proposal as people who have been baptised should have priority over the other people. • If you went to a ND school and you were Catholic – you may get bullied. • I'm not really bothered about it – to me everyone is the same. • Religion is important to Roman Catholics and they can learn about their religion. <p>Against</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the right to go to the school of their choosing – perhaps Roman Catholics would benefit from going to a ND school as they would learn more about other faiths etc. • It could affect close friendships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't understand why I am being asked about this. • I don't think people in ND schools should be asked this as it does not affect them. • I don't think that I need to know about this. • The consultation is very confusing.
St. Angela's PS Overall Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the last consultation most people supported keeping St Angela's Primary in St. Ninian's High School and that it was very unfair that it was removed and made Priority one. • It was bad enough that the children then became Priority one instead of being automatic entry but now they are being dropped down to Priority 11. This is very unfair. • The school of St. Ninian's had been built by Strathclyde Council and Glasgow contributed money to build the school. • St. Angela's pupils have a long history of attending St. Ninian's, lots of our parents were pupils at St. Ninian's and we have a connection with the school that goes back years and years all the way to 1984. • St. Angela's pupils are not responsible for the breakup of Strathclyde Council in 1996 so why should we suffer because of it? • Families were going to be split across two or three schools because of this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are very upset by this whole procedure and state that it has caused emotional upset and worry at home in their families.

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
St. Cadoc's PS Overall Agree	<p>P4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is good for everyone. • I think it is fair. • I agree because too many people can't go to the same school. • It is not fair for people who don't have it (Baptismal certificate.) • I feel if the school is oversubscribed it will be a very good idea and it is fair. • You might lose a friend. <p>P5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think the Baptismal certificate is a good idea. • I agree with not a lot of people in the school. • I agree but according to the proposal you need a Baptismal certificate so won't other religions get in? • I agree because people who are not Catholic are getting in and Catholic people are not. • I agree because as a Catholic I think Catholics should learn about God and Jesus. • You have certain rules because of the huge amount of people in the school. • I agree we need to do something about the number. • I think Catholics should get in first and then non Catholics should get in. • I disagree I think they should build a new high school. • I disagree my brother won't get in. • I think it is very unfair because people with certain things get in. • I disagree because I think all religions should go to a Catholic school. <p>P6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I agree because the schools which are oversubscribed find it hard to take everyone in and I personally think it is more organised. • Everybody gets a fair chance. • I disagree because people should be able to choose what school they go to. • We were taught all religions need to be equally respected but you're saying Catholic boys and girls have more of a chance to go to St. Ninian's. It is wrong. • I disagree because I don't think it is fair people get priority over others. • If you are not a Catholic you could be taking someone's space for the future. • There are great schools for non-Catholics. • Some people move here to get into St. Ninian's and now might not. • They are discriminating people who are not Roman Catholic. If they choose to have a Catholic education we should be welcoming them not excluding them. • Because Catholic people won't make their Sacrament. • We have the right to learn about all world religions. <p>P7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have to do something if the school is full. • It might get to the point people are not getting in because schools are oversubscribed. • Roman Catholics should have priority in primary and secondary catholic schools. • I agree because it is only if it is oversubscribed. 	

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
<p>St. John's PS</p> <p>Overall Disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In general, the new proposals were unfair and that religion should not be a factor in deciding whether or not someone can come to a school. 	<p>P4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I agree with the consultation, I like the idea. I agree with this because I think it should always have been this way. It is a good idea because schools won't be crowded. <p>P5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I agree because if the schools are crowded then schools will need to be bigger and this will cost more money. I agree with this if it means that the schools don't get crowded. I don't think the brothers and sisters bit should be so far down the list. I think it is bad for people who are joining schools later on (after P1). <p>P6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think whoever registers for the school first should get to go to the school first (this should only happen in the case of a school being too busy). I think it is fine if there are too many people wanting to get into a school. I think the proposal is extremely unfair. I don't agree with the proposal because it is not fair for people who are not baptised. They can't get into Catholic schools. I think the proposal is unfair. <p>P7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I find it extremely unfair that you have a better chance of getting into a RC school if you are Jewish or Muslim and live in catchment, than if you live out of catchment and are RC. I think it is awful that people could grow up with friends in a Catholic school and then get separated for high school because of their beliefs. I think it is very unfair on Muslim children and people who do not have a faith. I think the new rules should go in this order → Catchment Area, Brother/Sister and Catholic or not. I do not think this is fair. For example, what if a non-Catholic is at OLM for 7 years and when it is time to go to St. Ninian's they don't get in because there is not enough room and they are not Catholic. People should be allowed to choose a Catholic school whether they are Catholics or not. Everyone should be able to choose the school that they want to go to. I think it is incredibly unfair that you will not let people into a Catholic school if they are not Catholic. I feel these rules are very unfair because I feel it treats people differently due to their religion. No matter what, you should be allowed to choose your own school even if it is not in your catchment area. I already disagree to these rules and conditions.

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
St. Joseph's PS Overall Agree	<p>Agree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who are Catholic should be able to get a place in a Catholic school so they can make their sacraments as a class. It is not fair if a Catholic pupil doesn't get a Catholic education if they choose to. If your parents want you to be a Catholic then you should be able to go to a Catholic school if they want you to. It would be fairer for Catholic children to go to a Catholic school. It is a child's right to get the education that suits them best and if they have a faith they should be given a chance to celebrate their faith in school. If the school is full and a Catholic pupil has to go to a non-denominational school then they wouldn't be experiencing the same education as other Catholics. Celebrating and sharing your faith is an important part of religion. 	<p>Disagree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the parents' choice which school their child goes to. It is good for children to mix with other faiths and religions. Children shouldn't be singled out because of their faith. Religion shouldn't matter in schools.
St. Mark's PS Overall Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a Catholic school and it would not be fair if a child who is Catholic does not get a place straight away because a child who isn't Catholic got their place in a Catholic school. If there are spaces in non-denominational schools used it means the Catholic schools wouldn't be so full. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think Catholics should be first to go to a catholic school because it is a Catholic school. Because people that are Catholic should be able to learn more about God and their religion in their Catholic school. I agree because it isn't fair on Catholic children who will need to go to a school outside their catchment area. I agree with the proposal because this is a Catholic school and people who are not Catholics should still be able to get in if it's not full. If there were 2 spaces left if one is Catholic and one is not they would let the Catholic in because they would have made their sacraments. I think it is a good idea because it's a fair way to decide who will get more priority over others. It's also fair as it's a Catholic school and it's not fair if Catholics get turned away. I agree because if you are Catholic your parents have chosen for you to be brought up like that and go to a Catholic school.

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
St. Thomas' PS Overall Agree	<p>Agree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make sure there is space at Catholic schools for Catholic children especially so they can receive the Sacraments. So that Catholic children can learn about their Catholic Faith. To make sure that it is fair for Catholic families who want to go to a Catholic school if they live in the area. Catholic children might want to do things in and go to their local Parish so it is important for them to be at their local Catholic school. People shouldn't just send their children to a Catholic school because it is near their house, they should send because they believe in Catholic faith. 	
St. Vincent's PS Overall Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some children thought that baptised RC children should have the priority to have a place in Catholic schools. However, the other argument was that everybody should have the right to choose which school they want to go to. 	
Thornliebank PS Overall Agree	<p>P4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I believe that if your parents aren't Catholic and the child wants to be Catholic, they won't have a certificate and I don't think it's fair. <p>P5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think this is a good change. I think this is very fair. I think it is a very good idea. <p>P6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think that schools should be equal and all schools to have rights so I disagree (it doesn't matter which schools are better). You shouldn't need a certificate to go into a Catholic church and you should be able to just get baptised and believe in your religion. There should just be non-denominational schools. <p>P7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, I agree with the proposal because it will give a chance to smaller Primary schools. I think it's fair. 	

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
Uplawmoor PS Overall Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think that people with disabilities should go before people with brothers and sisters in the school. • I think if you live in East Renfrewshire you should be able to go to an East Renfrewshire high school or primary school. • I like that they changed the order. I like how they moved East Renfrewshire people to top priority. I like how they made it fairer. • I think people who pay tax should have first priority in a school. • It's a good idea although wish some of the order was swapped but it will make it fair which is most important. • I think this will help Roman Catholic people in East Renfrewshire get into Roman Catholic schools. • I don't agree because it's hard for you to have to go to a different school than your friends. • I think we should keep brothers and sisters higher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think that people with disabilities should go before people with brothers and sisters in the school.

Secondary Pupil Councils – Main Reasons / Additional Comments

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
Barrhead HS Overall Agree	<p>Agree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think they are fair statements in an appropriate order. • Easier for parents to get pupils to a school that they want. <p>Disagree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 7 should be nearer the top because of its importance. • Should not need to be baptised to get into a RC School - because they are baptised doesn't mean they practice religion. • People with a medical condition should have first priority as only certain schools may offer their requirements. • People could get bullied but not be able to move schools. • You might not get to go where your friends are which is very important. • Religion should not decide your education. • You should be able to go to any school you want to. 	
Eastwood HS Overall Disagree	<p>Agree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERC cannot sustain the status quo with the number of placing requests they get. • The proposals are much fairer. • It is fair that pupils who go to a primary school should be able to go to the associated secondary school. • It is right that serious medical conditions are prioritised. • It is right that RC children should get priority in an RC school. (In this category this was most commented on). <p>Disagree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposals are too discriminatory. • Child care needs to be considered. • It isn't right that siblings are not considered to be as great a priority. (In this category this was the most commented on). 	
Mearns Castle HS Overall Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It seems like a fair system as it is a Catholic school so RC should be prioritised. • It would stop overcrowding as well as utilising undersubscribed ND schools effectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some responses pointed to their feelings and opinions about faith schools. • Some responses pointed to everyone having a fair chance of getting into any school regardless of faith.

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
St. Luke's HS Overall Agree	<p>S1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is fair if Catholics get in first. • Catholic people can learn about their religion in a catholic school but not in any other schools so that would be fair. • Catholic people should get priority because it is a Catholic school. • Some expressed the view that it made sense that catholic parents/families should be given priority in situations of over-subscription. • Another view was there were good non-denominational schools, so what's the problem? • Another view was that the school should reflect that it's people with students from catholic backgrounds • RC schools should be for people committed to their religion. <p>S2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being baptised indicates you are in to the values of that school. • How can non-believing students learn about RC unless in RC school? • If schools are less populated then they should be filled allowing for equitable balance. • If there isn't enough space for everyone then it's right that the Catholic pupils get higher priority. • Catholic pupils should get higher priority because the school teaches the Catholic faith and this wouldn't mean much to non-Catholic people. • If you are Catholic then you have the chance to pray and go to mass in school which you wouldn't if you went to a non-denominational school. <p>S3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a Catholic school is near you and you are Catholic you should be able to go to it instead of someone who isn't Catholic. • If a Catholic person is forced to go to a non-denominational school they might be bullied for being a Catholic when they could have gone to a Catholic school instead. <p>S4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are more opportunities for Catholic pupils to learn about their religion in Catholic schools than non-denominational so they should have priority. 	<p>S1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some viewed that it might split up friendship groups. <p>S2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One view was that it might split up friendship groups. • If you participate in a different religion then you may be penalised by having to attend an inferior school out with your catchment area. • Unfair because some non-catholic students want to go to catholic schools. • These proposals could be viewed as divisive or discriminatory. • I think it should be first come first served – what if all their friends are going to the Catholic school. • You shouldn't be told where you can and can't go based on your religion. • If the school is closer to your house you should be able to go. <p>S3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If everyone is welcome then there should be no priorities. • Sibling relationship should be higher up the order. • Current structure supports inclusivity and integration if there's a mix of religion within school community. • Parents should be able to send their child to the school which they wish. • Other priorities should be higher than baptism. Some people have been baptised and haven't been to mass since they were baptised. Other people who have not been baptised go to mass regularly and practice as Catholics. This could be the provision for medical reasons for example. <p>S4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion shouldn't affect your access to education. • It's not fair because babies don't get to choose if they are baptised. • Everyone should be equal. • People who are not baptised might end up disadvantaged. • You may end up separated from friendship groups. • Child should have more of an equal chance; maybe an entrance exam. • Appears to be choosing segregation over integration.

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
St. Luke's HS Contd Overall Agree	<p><u>S5</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main reason that pupils did not agree with the proposal was that they did not believe that education should be segregated on the grounds of religion. The one pupil who agreed with the proposal also believed that all schools should be non-denominational but that, if this would not change, then agreed with the proposal. Some pupils felt that siblings should be able to attend the same school and that this should have been higher on the list of priorities as failure to allow this would result in financial costs for the families in terms of travel arrangements and that having an older sibling in school provided support for pupils. Many pupils felt that being baptised RC should not feature as highly on the list of priorities as many baptised RC pupils do not practise Catholicism and that some pupils may come to religion later in life. They may attend mass but not be yet baptised. Some pupils also felt that a family may also baptise their child in order that the child may be eligible to be educated in a RC school and so this method of prioritising may be unreliable. Many pupils believed that it made more sense for pupils to attend the closest secondary school in their catchment area, regardless of religion. <p><u>S6</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That it makes sense to give priority to pupils who are Roman Catholic as it would be unfair for them to not receive a Catholic education just because Roman Catholic schools are popular. Logical and a good way to deal this issue. It is fair that those who have been brought up as Catholic have priority to a Catholic education. 	<p><u>S5</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils felt that the priority list discriminated against pupils who wish to change school due to bullying. They also felt that the proposal did not take into account the number of pupils who transfer to S6 from private schools. Pupils made the point that if schools have a special unit for particular medical conditions or learning needs, then the religion or catchment area of the pupil should not matter. <p><u>S6</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's not good for integration and might create new tensions. There shouldn't be any barriers to a child's education. How many of these pupils/families actually practice their faith on a regular basis? The universities aren't catholic, why does it matter?
St. Ninian's HS Overall Agree	<p><u>Agree</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst the results show an overwhelming agreement with the proposed changes, a strong sense of unease in doing so came through in the responses received. The young people felt uncomfortable in having to provide their decision and reasons as part of this exercise as they recognise that the results may lead to changes that will directly affect them, their families and friends. The young people firmly believe that the ethos of a RC, Christina school is that it is inclusive and welcoming to all regardless of religion, race or culture and that this is an attribute which many pupils pride in themselves, however, their responses highlight that this inclusion should not be at the 	<p><u>Temporary Accommodation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to the information in the Consultative Documentation, there is a definite concern in regards to the impact of placing temporary accommodation in the grounds of St. Ninian's HS. The young people of St. Ninian's have indicated that they are not in favour of this, not even as a temporary measure to alleviate the existing and any future issues relating to overcrowding that the school, its' pupils and staff face.

	expense of their own exclusion.	
School St. Ninian's HS Contd. Overall Agree	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion <u>Agree Contd</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large number of pupils who agree with the proposal to give priority to RC baptised children if they live in the school's catchment in the event that a RC school is oversubscribed, have stated that this seems the only fair option in allowing RC people the opportunity to develop their faith as part of their school life. They feel a sense of injustice in that there is less choice of RC secondary schools as compared to ND secondary schools in ERC and furthermore that these schools do not have the same demand for entry, therefore by implementing this proposal it affords them a more just and fair chance of admission to an RC school. <u>Disagree</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of those pupils who disagreed with the proposal there was an underlying concern that the changes do not provide equal opportunity for all young people. • Pupils believe that St. Ninian's provides a diverse and encouraging environment; again referring to the inclusive ethos of the school, where all young people are welcomed, irrespective of their faith and cultural background, and that should the changes proposed be implemented this would be difficult to retain. • Many of the responses received in this category put forward the suggestion that investment should be made to either expand the existing school campus or build a new and bigger RC school to accommodate the increasing demand for a faith education. This follows the inclusive philosophy on which St. Ninian's was founded. 	Additional Comments <u>Temporary Accommodation Contd</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are in principle concerned with the potentially negative effect this will have on their education and learning and that they do see how 'huts' will ease the accommodation problems in specific departments such as Science where very often classes don't have access to Science laboratories, Drama where there is limited performing space and no designated changing facilities, Music where there are not enough practise rooms, Physical Education where there are poorly maintained and overcrowded changing facilities and outdoor facilities are limited given the number of pupils accessing PE at any one time, ICT where there aren't enough computers for pupils and Religious Education where there is a lack of classrooms. • Pupils in their discussions have brought to our attention that there are not enough classrooms within other curricular areas, e.g. Maths, English, PSHE and they have to travel to other parts of the school outwith the subject area to access a room that may exist. • In addition, pupils recognise that 'huts' will not deliver any additional quality social areas, the existing catering facilities are poor and dining areas in the eyes of the current young people of St. Ninian's are desperately inadequate.

Williamwood HS

Overall Agree

- It makes the system fair.
- I agree with this proposal as I think that people who are Catholic should get top priority as their parents might really want them to go to a Catholic school and it's unfair if other kids are taking their place. Also the rest of the priority seems fair so that everyone who really needs a place will get it.
- Roman Catholic parents should have priority for their children to attend Roman Catholic schools without having to go to another school because it was over-subscribed with children with non-Roman Catholic parents.
- I agree because people who live elsewhere are taking up the spaces for East Ren residents.

School	Main Reasons for Overall Conclusion	Additional Comments
Woodfarm HS Overall Disagree	<p>Agree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roman Catholic schools should be, first and foremost, for catholic pupils. • Less pupils from outside ERC should get places in ERC schools. • Brings policy in line with rest of authorities who require proof of baptism etc. • People who pay higher ERC council tax should have priority to ERC schools. • People should be entitled to go to their local school. <p>Disagree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People outside ER and Catholic get into schools but not people in ER. • Proposals 6 and 7 are placed in the wrong order (in some cases this priority order could potentially split families/siblings). • Need to prioritise accordingly however there are consequences which need to be taken into account e.g. splitting families; where one sibling goes to one school and the other is somewhere else. • People will get baptised just to get into RC schools. • Schools are oversubscribed however ERC are not building more schools (instead there is more housing). • General disagreement with the continuation of religious school (denominational). • Proposal 3 should be above proposal 2. • Feeling that pupils outwith the catchment area are more motivated to do well and make the most of their education and this should be recognised. • Catchment area boundaries don't reflect 'local' schools. • Some pupils wish to start anew, e.g. get away from bullying etc. and so should be allowed to move on by giving a placement here. • Too many people will be transferred to Woodfarm because of rejection from St. Ninian's and this would result in oversubscription here also (although Woodfarm is already full). 	

Appendix 6 – Results of Pupils’ Views

Primary Schools – Results of P4 to P7 Pupils’ Views

School	Roll	P4			P5			P6			P7			Overall			
		A	DA	AB	A	DA	AB	A	DA	AB	A	DA	AB	A	DA	AB	
Braidbar PS* **	124													40	65	0	
Busby PS	149	21	17	0	26	5	0	29	9	0	31	9	0	107	40	0	
Calderwood Lodge PS	71	3	6	7	14	7	0	3	14	0	7	10	0	27	37	7	
Carlbar PS**	129	39	7	0	6	22	0	5	21	0	9	15	0	59	65	0	
Carolside PS	416	82	33	0	49	36	0	76	37	0	56	47	0	263	153	0	
Crookfur PS**	190	17	19	10	19	25	5	11	8	8	6	38	6	53	90	29	
Cross Arthurlie PS	209	35	15	10	17	23	5	18	8	26	29	16	7	99	62	48	
Eaglesham PS	212	19	33	0	16	39	0	9	30	0	28	38	0	72	140	0	
Giffnock PS	216	17	31	3	18	31	7	23	30	2	22	29	3	80	121	15	
Kirkhill PS**	373	58	24	2	45	5	48	54	16	20	27	50	21	184	95	91	
Mearns PS	474	33	85	0	22	105	0	24	82	0	27	96	0	106	368	0	
Neilston PS**	163	29	6	2	42	6	0	36	9	0	25	3	0	132	24	2	
Netherlee PS	404	47	53	0	47	62	0	5	91	0	53	46	0	152	252	0	
O.L.O.M. PS	500	92	33	0	70	56	0	68	58	0	79	44	0	309	191	0	
Springhill & Auchenback PS	124	11	10	13	8	0	19	14	4	13	11	5	16	44	19	61	
St. Angela's PS	240	0	60	0	0	63	0	1	56	0	0	60	0	1	239	0	
St. Cadoc's PS	391	43	25	30	45	37	17	51	30	14	47	26	26	186	118	87	
St. John's PS	128	18	7	3	9	19	1	15	9	1	4	22	0	46	57	5	
St. Joseph's PS	204	51	9	0	42	21	0	29	26	0	19	7	0	141	63	0	
St. Mark's PS*	192													90	69	33	
St. Thomas' PS	77	17	1	2	15	2	3	19	0	1	17	0	0	68	3	6	
St. Vincent's PS**	170	13	14	12	12	9	15	25	6	10	14	5	18	64	34	55	
Thornliebank PS***	77	12	5	5	14	0	5	3	12	3	15	1	1	44	18	14	
Uplawmoor PS	36	7	0	0	7	1	0	10	1	0	9	1	0	33	3	0	
														Overall Totals	2400	2326	453

Key: A = Agree DA = Disagree AB = Abstain

* The consultation method in Braidbar and St. Mark's Primary Schools did not allow the school to collate information by stage.

** Braidbar, Carlbar, Crookfur, Kirkhill, Neilston and St. Vincent's Primary Schools recorded 19, 5, 18, 3, 5, 17 pupil absences respectively.

***Thornliebank PS recorded 1 spoiled paper.

Secondary Schools – Results of S1 to S6 Pupils' Views

School	Roll	S1			S2			S3			S4			S5			S6			Overall		
		A	DA	AB	A	DA	AB	A	DA	AB	A	DA	AB	A	DA	AB	A	DA	AB	A	DA	AB
Barrhead HS 424 Pupils Balloted	570	71	31	0	52	30	0	60	20	0	25	30	4	25	31	0	35	10	0	268	152	4
Eastwood HS 15 Spoiled Questionnaires	1018	79	94	2	81	91	0	73	88	4	25	127	0	49	63	0	29	69	4	336	532	10
Mearns Castle HS 288 Pupils (23%) Sampled	1248	27	23	0	26	20	0	21	27	0	38	15	0	28	21	0	18	24	0	158	130	0
St. Luke's HS	606	76	16	10	34	48	8	36	41	8	42	22	3	37	52	5	30	23	0	255	202	34
St. Ninian's HS	1802	201	88	1	187	83	0	191	89	1	182	104	1	174	85	1	111	74	0	1046	523	4
Williamwood HS 34 Spoiled Papers	1676	147	34	95	120	93	56	145	57	54	130	91	76	92	113	72	78	68	121	712	456	474
Woodfarm HS 19.3% Pupils Sampled	873	0	23	0	0	18	7	6	12	10	5	19	11	8	19	11	5	14	1	24	105	40
Overall Totals																				2799	2100	566

Key: A = Agree

DA = Disagree

AB = Abstain

Note of Meeting with Parent Councils (West)
Re Proposed Changes to the arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from
primary to secondary in respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and non-
denominational primary and secondary schools effective from January 2017

Tuesday 13 September 2016 at 7pm in
Carlibar Primary School

Present: Chris Webb (Chair)
Councillor Paul O’Kane, Vice Convener for Education & Equalities
Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education
Fiona Morrison, Head of Education Services
Mark Ratter, Head of Education Services
Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer, Legal & Procurement

Mr Webb introduced himself, explaining that he is a retired HM Inspector of Education and was previously Head of Education at Perth & Kinross Council. He had lead responsibility for the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 which is the framework that sets out the duties local authorities are required to follow when making any changes to the school estate.

Mr Webb explained that the purpose of the meeting was to provide further information about the proposal from council officials and there would be an opportunity after the presentation to ask questions in relation to the proposal. He asked that parent council members identify themselves prior to asking a question, to allow officers to provide a full response, as necessary.

Mr Webb introduced the members of the panel and also advised that Gary Johnstone, from Education Scotland, was attending to observe the meeting. The meeting was being minuted to ensure that an accurate record is kept. He advised that there will be a parent councils meeting for the east of the authority next week and two public meetings. The same information and presentation will be provided at all 4 meetings therefore there is no requirement to attend more than one, unless any individual wishes to do so.

When the consultation period is over, the council will send the responses from consultees to Education Scotland who will then prepare a report, taking into consideration comments received. The Director of Education will then submit a report for consideration by the Education Committee at their meeting on 20 December 2016, although this report will be available 3 weeks prior to any decision being made. If the consultative proposal is ultimately approved, the outcome will take effect from 1 January 2017.

Mr Webb added that the Council has a duty to provide adequate and sufficient provision, that the Local Government Scotland Act 2003 requires authorities to provide best value in the delivery of their services and any proposal needs to be the most reasonable and viable.

Mr Ratter delivered a presentation outlining the present position in both sides of the authority, and the current position in particular at St Ninian’s High School. He talked through the options considered and explained the consultative proposal in detail. He explained the modelling of the proposed new arrangements, in particular in relation to St Ninian’s High School, the transitional measures which will be taken to ensure that all pupils entitled to a place under the current arrangements and enrolled by the end of December 2016 would have their entitlement honoured.

The group heard about the educational benefits to pupils, the implications of the proposal and what would happen next.

He finished by advising that the consultation period ends on 10 October 2016. The department is consulting with various groups, including children and young people and he advised of the ways in which responses can be made, i.e. via the Citizen Space online survey, by email or by sending a hard copy of the response form. He directed parent council representatives to the council website where more information is available.

The meeting was opened up for questions.

Q. A representative from St Luke's PC commented that, while there is not a problem in Barrhead schools currently, there are housing developments in the area and he wondered about the scope in relation to Barrhead High School's intake moving forward.

Miss Morrison responded that anticipated additional pupils from all the current known planned new residential developments have been factored into the equation when considering the proposed new arrangements and in preparing the consultation document. As things currently stand, there will be no issues with places in the area. She recognised that there are housing developments, for example near St Luke's HS, and these could have an impact on places in particular areas of Barrhead in future years and that places have been increased to meet anticipated additional pupils. For example, St Mark's was previously a 1½-stream school and was increased to 2-stream to meet catchment demand. She added that, if there is an unexpected 'blip' year where pupils are not able to be accommodated in the denominational school of their choice, they would be re-directed to an alternative local school.

Q. A representative from Neilston PS asked what would be the impact if there is over-subscription in the denominational secondary school and pupils are re-directed to their local non-denominational school, for example, Eastwood High School.

Miss Morrison responded that the whole purpose of the consultation is to manage these blips. The numbers currently show that there are sufficient catholic places for those baptised and that some pupils of other faiths or no faith could still be accommodated. She added that St Ninian's HS covers the whole of the east of the authority for secondary denominational education and Eastwood HS is one of several non-denominational secondary schools in the area.

Mrs Shaw emphasised that this consultation is not about changing a school's catchment area.

Miss Morrison said that, if there was a problem with places in the non-denominational sector, the council would have to consider the situation at that time. At the moment, they are confident that there is sufficient capacity.

Q. A representative from Madras FC sought clarification on the requirement of a baptismal certificate, asking if this is something that has always been done, or has the council suddenly decided to introduce it.

Miss Morrison replied that in East Renfrewshire there has never been a need to provide a baptismal certificate, although she is aware that this is done in other parts of the country. Anyone has a right to attend any public school if there are sufficient places. It is only at times of over-subscription in a Roman Catholic school that the authority would be allowed to use this criterion within the placing request framework to give priority to Roman Catholic children. Otherwise children would not require to have a Roman Catholic baptismal certificate to be admitted to their local Roman Catholic catchment school.

Q. A St Luke's representative asked if any analysis had been carried out to ascertain why there are so many placing requests for denominational schools. Would this not be an opportunity to extol the virtues of the non-denominational schools?

Mr Ratter responded that there seems to be a number of factors for the increased numbers. These include new housing developments, and the information from the census data indicates that there is an increase in families indicating that they are Roman Catholic. In addition, there is inward migration and changing patterns in relation to rental markets.

Mrs Shaw advised the authority endeavours to promote the achievements in all ER schools and over the next couple of years will also take a more targeted approach to promote non-denominational schools.

Miss Morrison added that the non-denominational schools attract a lot of placing requests too, for example in Williamwood and Mearns Castle high schools.

Q. The Neilston PC representative expressed concern that the baptismal certificate issue could cause a rift and segregation in the community and asked if this had been considered.

Mrs Shaw said that this would be a question for communities too and not just for education and reiterated that the priority for baptismal certificates would only be used at times of oversubscription. Roman Catholic schools are there first and foremost for that denomination. She wondered if we are just doing something that people think is already being done anyway. The responses received so far do not indicate any concerns about a rift or that one faith is being looked after better.

Other local authorities currently ask for baptismal certificates and there is no indication from them that it has caused any concerns. However, the authority is very sensitive about this, in particular how to take this forward with the children. Miss Morrison has spoken to all of our head teachers to remind them of the need to handle situations sensitively and, if necessary, the authority could intervene if required.

Q. A representative from Barrhead PC asked if the church had been involved and how the proposed arrangements would impact on religious observance.

Miss Morrison intimated that there would not be many Roman Catholic pupils attending non-denominational schools under the proposed arrangements as baptised Roman Catholic pupils would be given priority to go to Catholic schools.

Mrs Shaw advised that Roman Catholic schools have a duty to offer religious observance and parents can opt out of that. No one has a right to opt out of religious education.

Mr Mahon added that the Scottish education system includes non-denominational and denominational schools. He said that if, for example, you consider yourself to be Catholic and you attend a non-denominational school, you would not be entitled to expect that school to provide religious observance that reflects Catholic teaching.

The generally accepted evidence of faith is a baptismal certificate in order to establish if a pupil meets the criteria. In the case of a non-Roman Catholic attending a Roman Catholic school, that child would not need to participate in religious observance and a non-denominational child would not be required to attend Mass in a Roman Catholic school.

Q. A member of the audience asked what priests and the church are saying about it?

Mrs Shaw responded that the Bishop and the Archbishop have both been consulted, as statutory consultees and that they will respond formally. Officers have worked closely with them in the production of the document and in seeking their views.

Q. Concern was expressed that this proposal could lead to a queue of children applying for a baptismal certificate in P7.

Mrs Shaw replied that there are usually a number of families who have their children baptised around P4, and that under the proposal this may happen earlier now.

Q. In response to a question in relation to the authenticity of certificates and how these could be checked if, for example, they have been issued in a different country, Councillor O’Kane advised that the Roman Catholic Church is universal and arrangements between dioceses would allow the authority to carry out the necessary checks.

Mr Webb said that he knows that other councils request baptismal certificates and he is not aware of any issues that have arisen as a result.

Q. A St Luke’s representative commented that, looking to the future, bigger schools will be needed as population is increasing. Even though the proposal is being put in place as a ‘safety policy’, he would hope that there would be potential for more to go to Barrhead High School. He asked if there is capacity to expand schools given the house building in Barrhead and is this proposal just a stop gap?

Miss Morrison replied that, as stated in the report, numbers are reviewed every year taking into account the Local Development Plan and infrastructure requirements. Interestingly this year the intake at Our Lady of the Missions PS increased due to changes locally and a change of demographic and not because of new house building in that area. While it cannot be guaranteed, she is satisfied that there will be sufficient capacity for the foreseeable future. However, the authority continues to monitor places in light of developments including policy changes and government legislation; where if, for example, ministers make the decision to reduce class sizes, this impacts on school capacities and so places would have to be reviewed.

Councillor O’Kane informed the group that he is a member of the Planning Applications Committee for the council and that all applications have already been approved in terms of the Local Development Plan. The Education Department is a statutory consultee. The Administration of the council review the sufficiency of pupil places on a regular basis.

Mr Webb thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and advised of the next steps and the dates of the public meetings.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Note of Meeting with Parent Councils (East)

Regarding the Proposed Changes to the arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary in respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and non-denominational primary and secondary schools effective from January 2017

Monday 19 September 2016 at 7pm in
Clarkston Hall

Present: Chris Webb (Chair)
Councillor Paul O’Kane, Vice Convener for Education & Equalities
Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education
Fiona Morrison, Head of Education Services
Mark Ratter, Head of Education Services
Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer, Legal & Procurement

Mr Webb introduced himself, explaining that he is a retired HM Inspector of Education and was previously Head of Education at Perth & Kinross Council. He had lead responsibility for the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 which is the framework that sets out the duties local authorities are required to follow when making any changes to the school estate.

Mr Webb explained that the purpose of the meeting was to provide further information about the proposal from council officials and there would be an opportunity after the presentation to ask questions in relation to the proposal. He asked that parent council members identify themselves prior to asking a question, to allow officers to provide a full response, as necessary.

Mr Webb introduced the members of the panel and also advised that Gary Johnstone, from Education Scotland, was attending to observe the meeting. The meeting was being minuted to ensure that an accurate record is kept. He advised that there had been a parent councils meeting for the west of the authority last week and two public meetings are scheduled. The same information and presentation will be provided at all 4 meetings therefore there is no requirement to attend more than one, unless any individual wishes to do so.

When the consultation period is over, the council will send the responses from consultees to Education Scotland who will then prepare a report, taking into consideration comments received. The Director of Education will then submit a report for consideration by the Education Committee at their meeting on 20 December 2016, although this report will be available 3 weeks prior to any decision being made. If the consultative proposal is ultimately approved, the outcome will take effect from 1 January 2017.

Mr Webb added that the Council has a duty to provide adequate and sufficient places for their residents, that the Local Government Scotland Act 2003 requires authorities to provide best value in the delivery of their services and any proposal needs to be reasonable and viable.

Mr Ratter delivered a presentation outlining the present position in both sides of the authority, and the current position in particular at St Ninian’s High School. He talked through the options considered and explained the consultative proposal in detail. He explained the modelling of the proposed new arrangements in relation to St Ninian’s High School, the transitional measures which will be taken to ensure that all pupils entitled to a place under the current arrangements and enrolled by the end of December 2016 would have their entitlement to a place at St Ninian’s High School honoured.

The group heard about the educational benefits to pupils, the implications of the proposal and what would happen next.

He finished by advising that the consultation period ends on 10 October 2016. The department is consulting with various groups, including children and young people and he advised of the ways in which responses can be made, i.e. via the online survey, through the Citizen Space questionnaire, by email or by sending a hard copy of the response form. He directed parent council representatives to the council website where more information is available.

The meeting was opened up for questions.

Q. A representative from St Cadoc's Primary School thanked Mr Ratter and the panel for putting together the presentation and advised that, as a parent council, they will be supporting the proposal. He asked for clarification on the registration process, since the proposal, if accepted, would coincide with P1 registrations. Miss Morrison responded that consideration had been given to this; that the consultation report including the results will be available in early December prior to parents applying for school places; and that the department is working with colleagues in PR to ensure that people are informed of the consultation and potential changes in time for applying to register their child for school.

Q. Another St Cadoc's representative asked if a child currently attending a Roman Catholic school would be guaranteed a place in St Ninian's. The panel confirmed this would be the case for East Renfrewshire residents in the school's catchment area.

Q. The Chair of St Ninian's HS parent council advised that they are very much in support of the proposals. However, he pointed out the accommodation pressures in St Ninian's. For example, children are sometimes taught science lessons in other rooms because there are not sufficient science classes. They feel that transition arrangements are vital, both in terms of pupils and accommodation.

Q. A Woodfarm PC representative said that she had found the presentation helpful and sought clarification on the type of temporary accommodation which would be used in St Ninian's from 2021.

Miss Morrison replied that the accommodation would consist of good quality temporary units and that a best value approach would be taken. The temporary accommodation would be installed in a phased manner from August 2021, likely in blocks of 2 at a time, with a maximum of 6 required at any one time. These would be required until the end of June 2026, with phased removal thereafter. Miss Morrison added that the school would be involved in the discussions with Education and Property & Technical Services to consider the best options at the time and reminded the group that this is a temporary measure to be able to honour places for children already in the affected schools.

Q. A representative from St Joseph's expressed appreciation for the work put in to preparing the proposal over the summer and said that parents and staff value the multicultural aspects of schools. He indicated that he was doubtful if all of those identifying their children as Christian would in fact be Roman Catholic. It was confirmed that these numbers are considered at the top end and that the purpose of this consultation is to guarantee a place for Catholic children seeking a Catholic education. It does not exclude those of other faiths or no faith from seeking a place.

Q. A representative from St Ninian's & St Cadoc's expressed concern that the temporary accommodation would have an impact on specialised areas of St Ninian's, for example science as not all science lessons can be accommodated in labs. With the increase in numbers she was concerned that this would increase pressure for places in the school when it is over subscribed,

for example in the dining hall as she feels that it does not meet the demands of the current population. She asked if there were plans to look at specific areas of the school so that additional pressure is not put on science rooms.

Miss Morrison replied that, when temporary accommodation is installed, they take all needs into account including for example toilet facilities. Some of the accommodation could be multi-functional, i.e. science, art, computing and there will be wireless provision. However, further consideration will be given to the type of classes and rooms required with the school nearer the time. She added that not all science classes require to be taught in science labs. Some lessons can take place outside and in other areas of the school. Officers are aware of accommodation pressures in St Ninian's and in other schools.

Q. An OLM representative asked a question about the law in terms of the Equalities Act 2010, Section 5.3 which related to discrimination in terms of placing requests and if living in the catchment area, would their child be denied a place.

Mr Mahon responded that essentially every application is a placing request. The definition of a placing request is a routine request for a qualifying child in a school. At times of oversubscription, the proposed priorities would apply. In terms of the Equalities Act, the example they give is, when a denominational school is over subscribed, it is lawful in terms of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission to use this in a denominational setting.

In response to another question regarding 2.4 of the Equalities Act, Mr Mahon referred to Schedule 11 which lists the exemptions and says that part of the Act does not apply to denominational schools in the context of admissions. Otherwise it would be a discriminatory policy but it is not in the context of oversubscription.

Q. A Glenwood representative who wishes his daughter to attend OLM PS, expressed a concern that she will not be guaranteed a place because of the proposed new criteria and that she will not be able to progress to St Ninian's because she might be out numbered and pushed further down the line.

Mr Ratter responded that placing requests are only granted into a school if there are places available. In terms of OLM, if looking at the catchment, priorities would be used and in terms of transition from P7 to S1 if there were more than 300 children, again the criteria would be used. Placing requests from outwith the catchment would not be considered at all.

Q. Another parent, who has been an ER resident for 27 years, said that a lot of people move into rented accommodation just to get a child into an ER school. She expressed concern that her child would not be guaranteed a place if there is a high number of children moving in to the area. She added that some children get baptised just to gain access to ER schools. She said that this is upsetting and although she is aware that there is a non-denominational alternative, she chose a particular school for her daughter.

Mrs Shaw replied that denominational schools are there to provide for that faith, and that is set within the 1918 Act. She reiterated that calculations predict that there will still be sufficient space. However, she is unable to guarantee that a P7 pupil would get a place at St Ninian's as, if there were 300 applications and they were all baptised Roman Catholics, the authority has a duty to make provision, as they do across the whole school estate. She added that some pupils were re-directed this year that did not get in to St Ninian's under the current arrangements.

The parent responded that she agrees that priority should be given to Roman Catholics. However, she does not agree that Roman Catholics should be allowed to come in a later stage and jump the queue.

Mrs Shaw pointed out that the priorities set out in the proposal document indicate that siblings will have a higher priority than others. In response to the suggestion that length of stay should be taken into account, Mrs Shaw said that length of stay in an associated primary school is a criteria also.

Q. A parent who has children at Glenwood and OLM said that, whether or not the proposal goes ahead, there is a huge problem in OLM at the moment in terms of accommodation, with PE sometimes being taught in classrooms. She feels that this is a health and wellbeing issue.

Miss Morrison responded that she is not aware that currently pupils are being taught PE in classrooms. Mrs Shaw said that this would be taken up with the management of the school. Mr Webb advised the parent that this issue would be better raised outwith this forum.

Q. A Giffnock parent asked what would happen if the proposal is rejected and, if the possibility of extending St Ninian's was re-visited what would this mean for non-denominational schools. She expressed concern about school closures.

Miss Morrison replied that a few options have been considered and that this proposal is felt to be the most sensible, pragmatic approach to address the needs of the Roman Catholic community, those who wish a denominational education and the wider community. To keep extending St Ninian's would be self-perpetuating. Even if there was approval for funding and planning approval for an extension to the campus, the school would keep filling up and this would adversely affect other schools in the neighbourhood, which are also excellent facilities.

Mrs Shaw added that schools in the Woodfarm cluster would perhaps benefit most from this consultation.

Mr Webb advised that elected members will make the final decision, as long as it can be demonstrated that this is the most viable and reasonable option and brings the most educational benefit.

Q. A St Cadoc's representative asked how the 25% (projected number currently outwith ERC and attending St Ninian's) was arrived at, is that a legal requirement and do places have to be provided if available. She added that she feels bad for people who will be adversely affected. However, it would be unfortunate if you were an ER resident and couldn't get into the school of your choice. She asked if that 25% would be decreasing to '0'. In addition, as a resident, she would feel angry if her child was being taught in a portacabin when a non ER resident was being taught in the school.

Mr Ratter said that the 25% are actual pupil numbers based on the latest census information and the authority has a duty to provide for its resident population. This year, there were no placing requests granted for S1 at St Ninian's and the 25% figure reflect arrangements whereby two schools in the Glasgow area had previously been associated with St Ninian's High School.

Mr Mahon referred back to the proposed new priorities and reiterated that it is only when there are too many applications that these would apply. The school will fill up from its catchment area within ER before placing requests and priorities will apply across the board.

Mrs Shaw stated that the existing admissions arrangements give placing request priority to those primary schools previously associated with St Ninian's and that is essentially what makes up that 25%. This consultation addresses that as well where youngsters from outside ER have a higher priority to get in than those in the catchment area.

Q. Another parent whose child will attend St Clare's PS, referred to Calderwood Lodge, saying that all applications to that school are placing requests and asked if there will be a faith

based admissions policy there too. Mr Ratter advised that there are no plans to change the arrangements at Calderwood Lodge.

Q. With regard to St Angela's and St Vincent's, historically both of those schools had priority rights to St Ninian's HS. The parent commented that there is not a single non ER pupil in S1 this year, therefore their privilege will no longer apply.

Q. A parent referred to the slide in Mr Ratter's presentation which stated that ER will always have priority over non ER residents and sought clarification regarding the order of priorities.

Miss Morrison emphasised that it is only in the case of oversubscription that the placing request priorities will apply for catchment pupils. She provided clarification on the list of priorities, highlighting that priorities 4, 6, 9 and 11 apply to non ER residents and so are not used in the event of oversubscription from the catchment. The parent commented that the way it is described is not clear and asked why there is a separate admissions arrangement at transition, whereby a pupil may get in to P1 but not necessarily into S1.

Miss Morrison explained that currently there is a cross sector policy whereby if you move from denominational to non-denominational and vice versa, a placing request is required. This policy is being abandoned and, should the proposal go ahead, it would not matter at P7 what route has been taken. If a child lives in the catchment area and attends the Roman Catholic primary school, then at P7 it would be assumed that their route would be into St Ninian's.

The parent then asked the reason for that and why can Catholics not be prioritised in S1 at placing request but give first priority to pupils already in the primary school.

Mr Mahon replied that it is possible that there could be an influx coming in to at the P7 stage who are entitled to a Roman Catholic education. In reality, if there is not a degree of priority then Catholic schools would be filled by pupils who perhaps are not Roman Catholic. Therefore, the Roman Catholic children would be missing out. The authority is bound by law to accommodate them in a denominational school. Priority has to be given to children who are Roman Catholic over non-denominational children who may have been in a school longer. He added that evidence of residency from parents is checked for legitimacy.

Mr Webb suggested that, if there is a lack of clarity in this area of the proposal document, the Council will address that.

Q. A gentleman from Kirkhill said that it is fortunate that all the schools in this area are good schools. He can understand where concerns are coming from but we are very fortunate in ER and would be in a worse position if there were no spaces and were unable to get in.

Q. A representative from OLM asked Mr Ratter about the figures in one of the slides in relation to the projections in the medium term. She asked how confident he was in the long term.

Mr Ratter explained that account has been taken of all the current known and planned house building and the numbers of pupils as a result. He is confident in the medium term and officers will monitor the situation on an annual basis. He advised that there are processes in place and officers in the department liaise with colleagues in the planning department. However, situations change and the Government could change legislation in terms of class sizes, for example which could affect the number of available places.

Q. With regard to the projections and figures, a St Cadoc's representative referred to St Clare's and said that, if every place is taken up by ER residents, there will potentially be 330

children transitioning from primary to secondary. How would this work if St Ninian's is to stay at 300. Would provision at St Ninian's match the primary provision to meet the 10 classes?

Miss Morrison replied that it is unusual for the primary number to match the secondary. However, our secondary schools have high staying on rates and by keeping OLM at 120 and St Cadoc's at 60 in P1 in line with St Clare's and St Joseph's, it is hoped that the planning figure of 300 would be sufficient based on the planning class size of 30 pupils. Based on evidence it is not anticipated that should subsequently all P7 classes increase to 33, the maximum at that stage, that they will all be filled by baptised Roman Catholics. In the event of pupils increasing to 330, an alternative school would be provided for pupils not baptised in the Roman Catholic faith. In the unlikely event that all 330 were Roman Catholic children, the authority would provide Roman Catholic education. She added that places are continually being reviewed as demographics and areas change. The proportion of Roman Catholics moving into the authority has increased since the population census figures and if in future there was sustained evidence that this was having an impact on denominational or non-denominational schools the authority would need to make changes subject to consultation.

Q. A parent from Glenwood asked, if 120 are coming from OLM, St Cadoc's, St Joseph's and St Clare's, how do you cap it? 150 came in to OLM this year, a lot which are using different addresses to gain access to the school but there is no charge for these people in schools illegitimately.

Mrs Shaw replied that the wording in the placing request form has been tightened up and it states clearly that fraudulent applications will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The fact is that something is being done to address false claims. Officers do visit people at home to ensure that they are staying and resident in the accommodation that they have given as proof. Some have been found not living where they said. In addition the proof of rental agreements has been extended from 6 to 12 months.

Q. A lady stated that she has approached people herself as she feels it is not fair. She agrees that Roman Catholics should have Roman Catholic education. However, she feels that other factors have to be taken into consideration too.

Mrs Shaw advised that any such points should be included in the response to the consultation.

Q. With regard to the cross sector policy, a St Ninian's representative asked if this is unique to East Renfrewshire. He said that there are a lot of genuine cases of Catholic families moving in to the area and are caught out. However, the introduction of having to provide baptismal certificates would address the issue.

Mr Webb said that there is no such thing as a perfect solution. However, councillors are working within finite resources and the legislation and officers have to work within that and come up with solutions that deliver best value.

Q. An OLM/St Ninian's parent said that he supports the proposal. He referred to the extensions to the school which is now 6 stream at P1 and asked how large we would want OLM to become.

Miss Morrison responded that this proposal would help manage planning in the future.

Q. Another St Cadoc's representative asked what steps the Council has in place to promote the excellent non-denominational schools in the area to deflect the attention away from St Ninian's, adding that the cultural and language aspects etc. are all excellent in this area. Perhaps there could be a bit of PR involvement.

Mrs Shaw advised that a more targeted approach is being taken and the department is working very closely with PR colleagues to ensure that the excellent work in all of our schools is publicised.

Q. An OLM parent, whose son attends OLM, referred to the priorities and in particular the baptismal certificate and asked what chances her son has and would he be guaranteed an education in a Roman Catholic school.

Mr Webb asked the parent for clarification of the question, i.e. if his son were to get a baptismal certificate, would he then be entitled to admission?

Mr Mahon replied that, there has to be some way of evidencing that a pupil has been received into the Catholic faith and this is done by providing a baptismal certificate which is a reflection of a belief in that faith. However, the reality is that if any individual wishes to become a member of the Catholic Church that's their decision. It would be very difficult to question the motivation around that.

Mrs Shaw added that discussions have taken place with the Bishop of Paisley and the Archbishop of Glasgow in relation to ensuring that requests in terms of joining the Catholic faith are genuine. Both had agreed that dialogue would take place at a local level with priests around such requests.

Q. Another lady sought clarification that it is only in the event of oversubscription that a baptismal certificate is required, and then the subsequent priorities would be applied.

This is the criteria within which places can be benchmarked.

Q. A Kirkhill representative said that she thinks the school is excellent. She worked in St Cadoc's recently and feels, from personal experience, that it would be a shame if a child was Catholic and did not get the chance to go to a Catholic school because of the teachings and the ethos of the school. However, there are other excellent schools in East Renfrewshire. Are we scared to send our child to another school in ERC?

Q. The Parent Council Chair from St Angela's Primary school did not want to go into the whole history but indicated for the audience that St Angela's had previously been associated with St Ninian's and currently enjoy priority for placing requests but now this would be removed. They enjoyed S1 priority and their children are doing exceptionally well. They will not be supporting the consultation and she wanted this noted for the record. While she can sympathise with all the points raised tonight, their children are already attending the schools. Previously they had access to 50 out of 250 places. They understand that they are not residents. However, the school was built for their children too in Strathclyde Regional Council days. She advised that they have set up a sub group who would be putting together a formal response to the consultation.

Q. Another St Angela's representative supported the previous comments and asked why it is now acceptable to prioritise Catholic status and discriminate other or no faith but was unacceptable when St Angela's was removed as an associated primary. At the time they were told it would be unlawful to use a baptismal certificate to accord first priority access for their children.

Miss Morrison responded that St Angela's and St Vincent's were part of the 5 associated primary schools. At that time the Council had not claimed that religious priority was unlawful in terms of placing requests. It was deemed unlawful in terms of looking at first priority right to attend when applying for a catchment place, since all our schools must be open to pupils of all denominations. She explained that, East Renfrewshire Council as the administering body for St

Ninian's, had to be in control as much as possible of the people getting into the school and the catchment of St Angela's was growing very rapidly. East Renfrewshire had to reduce the school's catchment area to under its control to help manage places. The local house building in the ER area was also increasing. She said that now the numbers are becoming unmanageable, it is necessary to put another control measure in place and that concerns the consultative proposal. That is, when a Roman Catholic school is over subscribed by families in the school's catchment wishing places for their children, priority is given for baptised Roman Catholic children within the catchment area.

Q. A Thornliebank representative commented that she supports the proposal and it will allay the fears of the parents that there are no plans to close Thornliebank. Her personal view is that there should be no faith schools at all.

Q. Another gentleman asked if it is fair to give priority for Catholic pupils in other denominational schools or for people with medical conditions to be next priority. Is it fair for this discrimination?

Mr Mahon replied that the council does not consider that it is discrimination in terms of legislation at all.

Councillor O'Kane added that it will be up to him and other elected members on the Education Committee to make the decision on 20 December 2016 and encouraged parent councils to respond formally online or in writing.

Mr Webb advised that this is the second of four meetings. Each meeting will be identical so there is no obligation to attend more than one, although anyone can attend any of the meetings if they wish. He thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting, which he said was a credit to their commitment to their children's education.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL :EDUCATION SEPARTMENT

Note of Public Meeting (West)

Regarding the Proposed Changes to the arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary in respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and non-denominational primary and secondary schools effective from January 2017

Wednesday 21 September 2016 at 7pm in
Carlibar Primary School

Present: Chris Webb (Chair)
Councillor Elaine Green, Convener for Education & Equalities
Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education
Fiona Morrison, Head of Education Services
Mark Ratter, Head of Education Services
Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer, Legal & Procurement

Mr Webb introduced himself, explaining that he is a retired HM Inspector of Education and was previously Head of Education at Perth & Kinross Council. He had lead responsibility for the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 which is the framework that sets out the duties local authorities are required to follow when making any changes to the school estate.

Mr Webb explained that the purpose of the meeting was to provide further information about the proposal from council officials and there would be an opportunity after the presentation to ask questions in relation to the proposal. He asked that members of the audience identify themselves prior to asking a question, to allow officers to provide a full response.

Mr Webb introduced the members of the panel and also advised that Gary Johnstone, from Education Scotland, was attending to observe the meeting. The meeting was being minuted to ensure that an accurate record is kept. He advised that there will be a public meeting for the east of the authority next week. The same information and presentation will be provided at all the meetings therefore there is no requirement to attend more than one, unless any individual wishes to do so.

When the consultation period is over, the council will send the responses from consultees to Education Scotland who will then prepare a report, taking into consideration comments received. The Director of Education will then submit a report for consideration by the Education Committee at their meeting on 20 December 2016, although this report will be available 3 weeks prior to any decision being made. If the consultative proposal is ultimately approved, the outcome will take effect from 1 January 2017.

Mr Webb added that the Council has a duty to provide adequate and sufficient provision, that the Local Government Scotland Act 2003 requires authorities to provide best value in the delivery of their services and any proposal needs to be reasonable and viable. He advised that there would be a 10 minute break at 7.25pm.

Mr Ratter delivered a presentation outlining the present position in both sides of the authority, and the current position in particular at St Ninian's High School. He talked through the options considered and explained the consultative proposal in detail. He explained the modelling of the proposed new arrangements, in relation to St Ninian's High School, the transitional measures which will be taken to ensure that all pupils entitled to a place under the current arrangements and enrolled by the end of December 2016 would have their entitlement to transfer to St Ninian's High School honoured.

The group heard about the educational benefits to pupils, the implications of the proposal and what would happen next.

He finished by advising that the consultation period ends on 10 October 2016. The department is consulting with various groups, including children and young people and he advised of the ways in which responses can be made, i.e. via the online survey through the Citizen Space questionnaire, by email or by sending a hard copy of the response form. He directed the audience to the council website where more information is available.

The meeting was opened up for questions.

Q. A parent and grandparent of children attending a denominational school asked what other group does the authority anticipate that the proposed policy will have the greatest impact on, other than the Roman Catholic faith group.

Mr Ratter replied that the authority has a duty to provide denominational education. Denominational schools are set up for Roman Catholic children first of all. This ensures that they can attend those schools. Schools remain open to others, when there are places available. He advised that officers have engaged with a number of groups and has held further meetings.

Mrs Shaw referred to the summary document and page 25 of the consultation document which lists the statutory consultees. She advised that today, arrangements were confirmed for a meeting with the Muslim community on 3 October 2016 in Woodfarm High School at 6pm. She informed the meeting that parents are statutory consultees, but not the Muslim faith group. However, she has listened to concerns and therefore offered a special meeting with the Muslim community.

Mr Mahon commented that a particular faith group might consider themselves to be the largest group affected, but that this may not necessarily be the case. All faith groups, including Roman Catholic and others, are equally affected and it has to be borne in mind that a Christian group might consist of a few groups in their own right.

The gentleman referred to the projections in the presentation did not give projections for Muslim children and this is discriminatory proposal.

Mr Ratter explained that the proposal is designed to allow the authority to manage places. Mrs Shaw added that, only when a school is over-subscribed will the priorities be used.

A further question was asked about the projections had indicated that looking forward 2021 is the year when difficulties start to arise. He said that surely this position could have been predicted over the last 5 – 10 years. He felt that the council had failed in its projections and is taking a drastic and dramatic measure which is divisive and discriminatory. He added that it is causing considerable upset and disharmony in the community. He wondered, given that the projections have been provided for 2021 and beyond, where were they for 2016, given the inward migration and the trends. He added that there was an opportunity to address and present a solution by including the Muslims in the joint faith campus.

Mrs Shaw replied that there are Muslim children in Calderwood Lodge too and significant numbers who will transfer to the faith schools' joint campus. They are not being excluded. She referred to Mr Ratter's presentation demonstrating that there will be sufficient places to allow transitions. She does not accept that Muslims are being excluded – schools are open to all. There is still room for those of no or other faiths even at times of over subscription. No child is being denied an education and, in terms of the projections for the next 5-10 years, the needs of the ER community have to have priority. No child has been refused a place in a denominational school who has requested this.

Q. A St Ninian's/St Cadoc's parent advised that he is happy with the proposal as it is the only way in which the council's legal obligation to provide catholic education for children in East Renfrewshire can be protected. In addition, there is room in the school estate in other secondary schools for non-catholic children. Any other solution would be discriminatory for the catholic children in ER.

Q. Another parent expressed similar views saying that, although schools should be open to all the Act states that catholic schools are primarily to serve the needs of catholic children. The gentleman advised that he was a teacher in catholic schools for 34 years. Many children want catholic education, not necessarily Mass or to join the Catholic Church. However, it would be insulting to the other excellent schools in the authority to say that they could not provide a good education too.

Q. Table 5 indicates that there would be some space left over for those of non-catholic faith. However, a parent council representative asked how any places are envisaged with 33 across all primary schools.

Miss Morrison replied that this is assuming that everyone in the census information recorded as Christian is indeed a baptised Roman Catholic, which is considered not to be the case. As indicated during the presentation, the religion of some people is just not known and some are not disclosed. Those who did not declare have been included with the total deemed Christian so she is comfortable that we have a good estimate. In addition she advised that 33 is the minimum value projected by 2021 which includes all anticipated children coming through from the new housing.

Q. A St Cadoc's parent thanked the Council for allowing people to voice their opinions and for a healthy and constructive debate. He agreed that Catholic pupils should have priority but he wants his child to attend high school with his Catholic friends. He feels that by dismissing minority people it is giving a feeling that something is not right. From what he knows the Catholic faith is inclusive.

He added that there has to be another solution even if more investment is needed. If there was a solution without jeopardising the minority would that be considered? Also pressure could be put on the Government for more funding. There are other options other than making people feel excluded. He asked if his children would be affected by this new arrangement.

Options were discussed during the presentation. Miss Morrison advised that under the proposed arrangements, everyone currently in one of the associated primaries, expecting to go to St Ninian's and living in the catchment area will go to St Ninian's. She referred again the additional hutments to help honour this commitment.

Mrs Shaw said that this is a consultation and anyone feels there is a different solution, they should include that suggestion in their response for consideration. However, she does not agree that there is a special ethos only in denominational schools. In both the non-denominational schools she had taught in the ethos was very special. Everyone's needs are met whether within or outwith a faith community and she has every confidence that this is the case in every ER school. Indeed, she insists upon it.

Q. A grandfather of pupils in St Cadoc's raised a similar question in relation to other options available. He said he had looked at all the options and it needs to be based on the needs of all the community. There are a large number of houses being built bringing in council tax and he wondered why there are not resources from that. These resources could be used to build another school and would avoid parents dropping off and collecting at 3 different schools. He feels that this is time to look at other options to make things better for

everyone, Catholic, Jewish and other denominations to ensure that they are looked after in the same way as others.

Mrs Shaw advised the gentleman to feed that into the consultation response.

Q. One of the St Cadoc's parents asked about the P7-S1 transition period. Her son is in P5 and previously they lived in another authority. Her youngest child is in P3 and she wondered what the situation would be for her eldest child.

Miss Morrison reassured the parent that as long as they are living in the catchment area, her son will progress to St Ninian's. She knows that there has been some confusion with regard to the cross sector policy currently in place, but this would now be abandoned if the consultative proposal is accepted.

Q. A parent of children at St Ninian's and OLM said that he lives within the walking distance from both schools and was concerned that her daughter, who is 2 years old, will not get a place in the same school as her siblings.

Mrs Shaw reminded the parent that it is only at times of oversubscription that the priorities and criteria will be applied. In addition, having a sibling in the school means there is some order of priority. She added that some of the criteria do not apply for primary schools.

Miss Morrison explained that, at times of oversubscription, everyone becomes a placing request.

The parent, however, is still concerned that her daughter is not guaranteed a place, purely because she is not of the Catholic faith and this will mean that she will have to go to two different schools to drop off and collect her children. She asked what she is supposed to tell her child – does she say it's because she's of the wrong faith? Why can this not be length of time in the school? She said that it's all about the faith ethos in the Catholic schools, the sense of prayer in the morning and at lunchtime.

She said that there is now a hostile atmosphere. Her children have always gone to Mass and learned about other faiths. She understands the capacity issue, but she urged the Council not to make it a faith issue. There needs to be a different solution. Scotland is a diverse community and we are not living in the dark ages.

Q. The parent of a child in St Thomas's, in P6 now, who moved from Neilston and is baptised, said she will now have to put in a placing request next year. How does it go with transport? Would this be included?

Mrs Shaw confirmed that there would be no change to transport arrangements that were previously in place. Mr Ratter added that if she is baptised and lives within the catchment and entitled to a first priority place then she will qualify for transport.

Q. Another parent of 2 children attending St Cadoc's said that this is about parents wanting the best for their children. In relation to the priority list schools in the delineated catchment area now become top priority. In one slide, there was mention that in 2009, 28% of places for the S1 intake for St Ninian's came from outside the authority. He asked when then did we make that the top priority? He also referred to the slide showing that in 2023 St Ninian's will be over subscribed by 23.

Miss Morrison explained that there was particular context at that time. St Ninian's used to have two former primary schools in Glasgow associated with it. They realised at that point that there was an issue as they saw that the numbers at St Ninian's were increasing and

there were concerns about the capacity. Following the 2010 / 2011 consultation, it was decided that the two Glasgow City Council primary schools would be disassociated. They currently have priority in terms of placing requests because of their past association with the school.

The figures of 28% down in 2015 to 25% are based on historical information. These numbers show the extent of places that currently that would be available in St Ninian's for ERC residents i.e. there is currently capacity in St Ninian's for a number of years. However things change, and, this year we were not able to accommodate any S1 placing requests including Glasgow City Council who had former rights. We currently have a number of youngsters in S1 who have been re-directed from St Ninian's and that is that is why it was necessary to go through the consultation, to give those Roman Catholic youngsters their rightful place in their catchment school.

Mrs Shaw stated that the table shows for 2023 those youngsters currently in school and therefore that's the need for temporary accommodation in order to honour the arrangements for those currently entitled to a place.

Q. Someone asked if the 25% relates to the S1 intake and was advised that this was for the whole school.

Q. A parent of 4 children at St Cadoc's, St Ninian's and nursery, said they empathised with the Catholic community and the problem they feel they will face. She feels that the current proposal does require some amendments to reflect people like me who have lived in the area for a long time. When his child joined it was because of the ethos of the school. He feels that an area of the proposal that could be amended in the report is the sibling priority. This is a diminishing thing. Over the forthcoming years it will go down so will only be 5-10 children. People will have made a commitment to this education system so can the Council not just honour that and let them see the rest of their education through.

For places like St Cadoc's with construction happening and new houses being built round about. When the balance changes and filling up with Catholic children, would that not cause inward migration ending up in P1 being full of Catholic children. You are applying a certain legal angle. There is the Scottish Education Act 2010 which has a discrimination clause within that – 8, 9 and 10. He feels that the Council is "treading a fine line". Could the proposal not reflect the community that it's in?

Mr Mahon replied that he is comfortable with the proposal in terms of legislation. In terms of other aspects of the proposal, people are invited to submit these suggestions as part of their response to the consultation. He referred to guidance issued from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, specifically for schools in Scotland and this proposal ties in exactly with that guidance.

Mrs Shaw added that there is no intention to discriminate against any religion. This proposal is about managing places in ER schools.

Q. A gentleman in the audience referred to the last statutory consultation when St Angela's was disassociated from St Ninian's. At that time they were given priority for placing requests, now they are not even mentioned because they are not in ERC.

Mrs Shaw reiterated that it is the Council's duty to make sufficient provision for the residents of ERC and that's what this is about. However, anyone can submit a placing request and Mr Ratter has predicted that there will still be places available. This year had been predicted as being a difficult year with large number from St Angela's in particular but also ERC residents

not having their placing requests granted for St Ninian's. It was essentially to ensure capacity for ER residents.

Q. A parent of children in nursery and in St Cadoc's commended the panel for answering the question but pointed out that the lady who asked what she was going to tell her child had not received an answer. This is quite closely related to community relations. He is aware of what goes in the playground and his child came home one day crying because of a comment made by another child.

He referred to the £14m being spent on the new joint faith campus and to the document 'East Renfrewshire : Planning for the Future' and he is aware that the Jewish community has halved and the Muslim community has doubled so he wanted to know why money had been spent to build the joint faith campus since Calderwood Lodge is never oversubscribed and people in the Muslim community need the funding more.

Mrs Shaw explained that Calderwood Lodge PS is outwith the Council boundary currently. The land required to build St Clare's was considered to be big enough to accommodate a 3 stream school and there was an opportunity to bring Calderwood Lodge within the boundaries of ERC. She advised that, in the last couple of years, Calderwood Lodge has had more children attending than in previous years. She accepts that there is a decreasing Jewish community. However, 79% of Muslim pupils in ER schools access non-denominational education. She understands that parents in the Muslim community might wish a faith education, however no-one is being excluded and the consultation figures show that there will still be room.

Mrs Shaw said that the figure mentioned in relation to the new Calderwood Lodge Primary School is not accurate. The cost of the whole campus is approximately £18m, £3.6m of which is for the relocation of Calderwood Lodge.

Mr Mahon added that local authorities have a power to build denominational schools upon demand from within a particular group. However, this is not a duty but a power of discretion. Denominational bodies would require to approach the local authority to request the establishment of a faith school. Calderwood Lodge was a pre-existing school for which ERC took over administrative duties. It is primarily attended by ER residents and that's why ER agreed to take it over and it makes perfect sense to bring it geographically within the authority boundary. That was part of the decision.

Mr Webb suggested that, since this question is not directly related to the proposal, perhaps this is not the right forum in which it should be addressed.

Q. A representative from St Ninian's thanked the panel for the options proposed and said he has complete sympathy and parents only want what is best for their children. However, the Catholic education in this area is a victim of its own success. It's an inclusive situation in a Catholic school, everyone gets respect. However, there are fantastic other schools. He has two children who have gone through St Ninian's and one who still attends. He has sympathy with how people feel but he doesn't know what else could have been done and you can't have Catholic children not getting a place in a Roman Catholic school. This is a long term solution.

Mrs Shaw explained that views are being gathered for consideration and a decision will be made at Education Committee at its meeting on 20 December 2016. The views of people coming to public meetings and of individual responses will all be considered. However, this isn't a vote. The views will be analysed and there may be a percentage included to exemplify how significant these views are so elected members can consider them.

Q. A parent suggested that it would be fair to have something in the proposals for those children who attended St Angela's.

Mrs Shaw suggested that is included in their response to the consultation response.

Q. Another parent asked how this arose in the first place and are there no other ways of dealing with oversubscription. Some people don't live in ER but are renting homes and providing documents to get into schools. A lot of people live in the area and may not even get in.

Mrs Shaw said she accepts this comment and some people are not always honest about where they live. However, procedures have been tightened up to address this problem and where people are found to have produced fraudulent information these cases will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal. In addition the length of rental agreements timescale requirements have been increased from 6 to 12 months. She added that when we receive information about people who are not living in the addresses they have provided, officers investigate this and places can be withdrawn. The council takes this very seriously.

Mr Webb thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL : EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Note of Public Meeting (East)

Regarding the Proposed Changes to the arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary in respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and non-denominational primary and secondary schools effective from January 2017

Wednesday 28 September 2016 at 7pm in
Eastwood Theatre

Present: Chris Webb (Chair)
Councillor Paul O’Kane, Vice Convener for Education & Equalities
Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education
Fiona Morrison, Head of Education Services
Mark Ratter, Head of Education Services
Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer, Legal & Procurement

Mr Webb introduced himself, explaining that he is a retired HM Inspector of Education and was previously Head of Education at Perth & Kinross Council. He had lead responsibility for the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 which is the framework that sets out the duties local authorities are required to follow when making any changes to the school estate.

Mr Webb explained that the purpose of the meeting was to provide further information about the proposal from council officials and there would be an opportunity after the presentation to ask questions in relation to the proposal. He asked that parent council members identify themselves prior to asking a question, to allow officers to provide a full response, as necessary.

Mr Webb introduced the members of the panel and also advised that HMI Stuart Maxwell, from Education Scotland, was attending to observe the meeting. The meeting was being minuted to ensure that an accurate record is kept. He advised that there had in fact been 4 public meetings (2 for parent councils), although the Council is only obliged to have one.

When the consultation period is over, the council will send the responses from consultees to Education Scotland who will then prepare a report, taking into consideration comments received. The Director of Education will then submit a report for consideration by the Education Committee at their meeting on 20 December 2016, although this report will be available 3 weeks prior to the decision being made. If the consultative proposal is ultimately approved, the outcome will take effect from 1 January 2017.

Mr Webb added that the Council has a duty to provide adequate and sufficient provision, that the Local Government Scotland Act 2003 requires authorities to provide best value in the delivery of their services and any proposal needs to be reasonable and viable. He advised that there would be a 10 minute break at 7.15pm.

Mr Ratter delivered a presentation outlining the present position in both sides of the authority, and the current position in particular at St Ninian’s High School. He talked through the options considered and explained the consultative proposal in detail. He explained the modelling of the proposed new arrangements, in particular in relation to St Ninian’s High School, the transitional measures which will be taken to ensure that all pupils entitled to a place under the current arrangements and enrolled by the end of December 2016 would have their entitlement to a place at St Ninian’s High School honoured.

The group heard about the educational benefits to pupils, the implications of the proposal and what would happen next.

He finished by advising that the consultation period ends on 10 October 2016. The department is consulting with various groups, including children and young people and he advised of the ways in which responses can be made, i.e. via the online survey through the Citizen Space questionnaire, by email or by sending a hard copy of the response form. He directed parent council representatives to the council website where more information is available.

The meeting was opened up for questions.

Q. A representative from St Cadoc's Primary School and a member of the Catholic community said that their parent council would be supporting the proposal. He asked what plans ER have to continue to raise awareness of the excellent standard of schools in our area to help lessen the pressures on St Ninian's.

Mrs Shaw replied that the department is working very closely with PR colleagues to promote the achievements in all ER schools with a targeted approach with particular youngsters and their achievements.

Q. A parent referred to the options outlined and those which had been ruled out for various reasons and asked under what circumstances would the preferred option not go ahead and if that was the case, what would happen next.

Miss Morrison explained that all views and responses from the various individuals, groups consulted would be submitted in a report to Education Committee for discussion with elected members. Should the preferred option not be considered viable then there would need to be further consideration on the way forward. She said that a number of options had been considered in preparation for this consultation and it is essential to identify a solution as quickly as possible. In particular, the intake in OLM has increased significantly. The other options were expensive and would take some time to implement, which would not help to manage places in the immediate future.

Q. The Parent Council Chair at St Ninian's HS advised that there is overwhelming support for the proposal, albeit not 100%, and it is hoped that following their meeting on Monday they will be in a position to formally endorse the proposal in their response. He said that whilst it is not possible to please everyone, the school was established to serve the denominational community. He added that he would like to see the overall accommodation at the school improved if possible.

Q. Another question was asked in relation to the timeframe for approval of the proposals and how this would impact on registration, which takes place in January. What would happen if the proposal doesn't go ahead? It was felt that OLM is 'bursting at the seams'. It is meant to be a 4-stream school but is turning into a 5-stream.

Mrs Shaw replied that the proposals would allow the authority to manage places in OLM. This is a consultation and parents have the opportunity to voice their opinion through their response to the proposal.

She added that there is lots of space in the rest of the school estate, particularly in Giffnock and Thornliebank and these schools are outstanding. Also, this year's exam results at Woodfarm were superb, and above its virtual comparator. There is excellent education available in all East Renfrewshire primary and secondary schools but we need to ensure that Roman Catholic schools have sufficient pupil places for the community they are designed to serve.

In response to a question as to other options, she advised that there had been other options, as shown in the presentation, but these had been discarded.

Q. Someone asked a question regarding extending existing schools or building a brand new school. Miss Morrison explained that one of the options was to extend existing schools. However, this was not considered a viable option. The schools have already been extended - OLM, St Cadoc's, St Joseph's, St Ninian's (twice).

Q. One of the St Cadoc's parents explained that they had enrolled their children in St Cadoc's because they like the ethos within the school and feel that the educational value provides better direction. He asked, with regard to the predictions, about the 75% figure in relation to those people who disclose their religion as Christian. Therefore the authority is potentially targeting the 25% not of that faith. He asked the panel did they not think this would introduce a whole new wave of segregation in the community. For the first time he has been made to feel discriminated against on the basis of his religious beliefs.

Mr Mahon responded that, while he is conscious of the implications of the proposal, the reality is that Catholic schools are created specifically for that denominational group. He appreciates the view of some parents regarding the particular ethos and culture in denominational schools, however the fact is that from a legal point of view, the guidance for Scottish schools from the Equality and Human Rights Commission recognises the position of denominational schools and accepts that the type of proposal being put forward by the authority is not in legal terms discrimination in any fashion. Officers have looked long and hard at the legalities and are very comfortable with the proposal.

Q. The father of a P3 child expressed concern in relation to GIRFEC. Since his son will have the uncertainty that he may not join his sister and will perhaps have to go to a different school he asked what message that would be sending his son. He will not be part of the peer group he has grown up with. The parent accepts that there is oversubscription and this needs to be looked at. However he feels there should be a points system and the sibling priority needs to be pushed higher up the list. He and his wife, both GPs in the area, will possibly have to manage their two children at two different schools and this will affect their mental state and increase their stress levels. It would also impact on their patients.

Mrs Shaw stressed that these are comments that should be submitted in their response to the consultation. As far as transition arrangements are concerned, officers have outlined the arrangements for those children already in the associated primary schools. That is why additional temporary accommodation is being put in place. However, for next year it cannot be guaranteed that there will be sufficient additional P1 places in St Cadoc's, or the other schools, above and beyond baptised Roman Catholic pupils. However, siblings are higher up the priority list used to allocate available places. Officers are happy to consider the order of priorities if parents can suggest better ones.

Q. A local resident with a daughter in P2, spoke about the spirit of the law and had said, had the authority known about the other faith groups, provision should have been made for them. He asked why the catchment can't just be changed as this would take pressure off and would take in the other great schools mentioned.

Miss Morrison explained that there are only 2 Roman Catholic secondary schools in East Renfrewshire – St Ninian's (East) and St Luke's (West). Mr Ratter had already mentioned the house building development in Barrhead and therefore St Luke's High School would be needed for the residents there. As such, it is not an option to re-zone part of the St Ninian's catchment and therefore the only option would be to build a new Catholic school. That was part of an earlier option, but was dismissed as outlined in the presentation.

Q. Someone in the audience asked then if the options came down to re-zoning or segregation?

Miss Morrison repeated that it's only in the case of oversubscription by catchment children that the proposed priorities would apply, with places at Roman Catholic schools prioritised for those of that faith. The authority has a duty to maintain that. However, schools will still be open to all faiths and none. The slides have demonstrated that there will still be some places for those who wish to get in.

Q. Another parent, who has two children at an ER school and one starting next year, thanked the panel for the clear presentation. He referred to previous comments and said that, while the proposal is not discriminatory, it is somewhat divisive. There is no surprise about the amount of house building in the area and also no surprise that some schools' reputations are better than others. Parents find themselves in a position where we are a few months away from making applications and the authority is 'scrambling' around, not sure what the solution is.

Mrs Shaw replied that there were a high number of youngsters who started in OLM this year. That was a surprise to officers and to the school. This was not something that could necessarily have been predicted. She knows that there have been rumours going around about schools closing. She accepts that there is a particular issue in OLM, although St Cadoc's is fine, St Joseph's is fine and the new school is opening next year. There won't be a problem in St Ninian's for a number of years. She said that the authority is not 'scrambling' and this solution will help to solve the problem. She does not accept that the proposal is divisive. ER is a very diverse community serving many faiths and none.

She added that it could be argued that schools in themselves can be divisive. That has been a debate ongoing in Scotland for a long time. However, our duty is to provide denominational education for those within the faith of the Catholic Church. The authority has a duty to ensure that there are efficient and sufficient places to meet the demand in our area to make sure that families who want a Catholic education and are baptised can access the schools we have. We have sufficient places and she does not think any more places are needed. The analysis and numbers have shown that.

Q. Another parent said that you only need to look at the spectrum of questions so far to realise that it is a divisive issue.

Mrs Shaw replied that it is correct that some schools have a better reputation than others, although members of the panel may have a different view and have evidence for that. Schools need to have an inclusive ethos, values of tolerance and, as Director of Education, she insists upon that.

Q. An OLM parent agreed that something has to be done and said it is right that the intake is managed at primary school level to make sure that when children start on their journey they know where they are going. In addition, how firm are the commitments to make transitional arrangements? Parents don't want a situation when peer group goes in one direction and some go in another.

Miss Morrison explained that this is all part of the proposal and she explained the sequence of events. The transitional arrangements are included as part of the consultation. As well as changing priorities, transitional arrangements are being proposed for all schools but, in the case of St Ninian's, it necessitates temporary accommodation. The proposal is out for consultation and has been recommended by the Director of Education. However, feedback is welcomed and will form part of the response to elected members at the Education

Committee meeting in December. If approved, then there would be a bid for capital funding to take forward the temporary accommodation required.

Q. A parent of pupils at both St Cadoc's and St Ninian's commented that as a non-Catholic parent he fully appreciates the concerns that the community feels with regard to oversubscription. He added that while he thinks it could be perceived as that, this is not discrimination, he would challenge that they are saying that the reality of it is actual discrimination that is being felt by those affected by this proposal. In relation to the transitional measures, he said that as far as he understands it, legal statute required current P1 children to be given a place, therefore additional temporary accommodation is required. He asked about the situation with the siblings of these children.

His concern is that there doesn't seem to be any real transitional measure to support them. He would advocate that in some sense there needs to be some kind of guarantee to those parents already enrolled in the schools, that siblings can progress. As time progresses this will tail off and the problem will sort itself out. Does the authority have any transitional measures to support those affected in this way?

Mrs Shaw responded that that has already been covered tonight and the temporary accommodation will secure these places for those already in the system.

The parent said that a transitional measure should be in place to ensure that his child, who has 2 siblings in St Cadoc's, is guaranteed a place. The perception is that these pupils are being discarded and it's very unfair.

Miss Morrison explained that councils are at liberty to change admissions arrangements under due process and that's what is being proposed. One thing that is changing is that currently there are a number of youngsters who are affected by the cross sector policy which was initially put in place to manage places at St Ninian's a number of years ago. If they entered a non-denominational school from the denominational sector, and vice versa, they had to make a placing request. There were a number of issues with that policy which appeared to be unfair and the proposed new arrangements will address those. She added that in making changes you have to draw a line in the sand at some time. However, if anyone wants to suggest an alternative solution, they should do this through the consultation process in their response. Mrs Shaw added that the transition arrangements that have been outlined go beyond what the authority is required to do.

Q. A St Ninian's & St Cadoc's parent commented that she had heard the discrimination card being played a few times tonight. She referred to the previous consultation when the two Glasgow schools were disassociated due to capacity issues. She is in the situation where her daughter is in P6 at St Cadoc's and she doesn't know if she will get in to St Ninian's High School. She is a practicing Catholic and she may need to go to another Catholic secondary school if she wants to continue in that sector. She asked where she stands from the previous consultation? They were moved from the original boundary and now baptismal certificates are being used as a priority. She said that this should have happened a few years ago and we wouldn't be in this situation now.

Miss Morrison explained that the 2010/11 consultation was to define the catchment area of St Ninian's and at that time the two schools in the Glasgow area were disassociated from the delineated catchment. East Renfrewshire has responsibility for its population/residents and the new proposal will ensure that Catholic children can attend Catholic schools. Only at times of oversubscription would the baptismal certificate priority be applied. If this criterion had been adopted back then, there would be obscure situation where the administering authority would have had no control over the numbers and schools would fill up. That would exclude ER residents from getting into their own schools whether of no faith or other faiths. The decision was taken at that time to manage the intake for ER residents. Under the new

consultative proposal schools will still however be open to all resident catchment children in East Renfrewshire and, under placing request legislation, where places are available religion would be used as a criterion.

Q. Another St Cadoc's parent stated that she does not feel that the proposal is divisive. Everyone in this room is in agreement that faith is important and should be supported. She is part of the Catholic community and appreciates everything the council has done. She particularly wanted to explain that she feels it is important that at oversubscription Catholic children are prioritised. In primary schools the Sacraments, First Communion and Confirmation, are integral parts of Catholic life. At the point of oversubscription if there is a situation, children should be afforded the opportunity to be given priority. She understands the importance of faith education but wouldn't have any problem in supporting any other faith if they wanted their own school. She agrees with comments made about the ethos in a faith school. She added that she commends the Council for their proposals.

Q. The parent of a St Cadoc's pupil said that he understood what Mr Ratter had explained about placing requests if schools were over-subscribed but asked what would happen if the catchment non-denominational school was over-subscribed?

Mr Ratter responded that the authority has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient places across the whole school estate. These will normally be within our catchments. However, if there was an unusual situation that both the denominational and non-denominational catchment schools at that time were over-subscribed, the council would be required to make additional arrangements to manage that.

In response to the parent's question as to whether a child would be guaranteed a place in their catchment school, Mrs Shaw said no, this year some children had to be re-directed and transport was provided to take them to another school. This could be denominational or non-denominational. There may be occasions when additional measures have to be put in place within a school when this happens. What Mr Ratter had said was that it is their duty to make that provision across East Renfrewshire. Parents may want faith education but we can only guarantee an education in one of our schools.

Another parent asked about the situation in relation to the planned intake of 300 and did officers envisage that their child would go to St Ninian's at the end of P7. Miss Morrison expected this would be the case.

An OLM parent stated all schools in East Renfrewshire are good, in both sectors and asked how this is normally measured – is it through school inspections? OLM had an excellent inspection in 2006 and that's why parents want their children to go there. If that didn't happen, and they didn't know about inspection reports, they would see in the press that all ER schools are good.

Mrs Shaw replied that, essentially, she would agree. She referred to the recent inspection at Netherlee PS which was outstanding and the one at Eastwood High School last session – the 7th best inspection result in Scotland. She agreed that inspections are an opportunity to celebrate the success of all of our schools.

Q. A parent of a pupil at Williamwood HS commented that, as parents, they know their rights legally. She said that Catholic schools teach children how to be inclusive and involve one another. It is important to recognise that what everyone has in common is that they all want the best education for their children with a similar environment and shared values. This can't become a Catholic versus non-Catholic situation. She knows about GIRFEC but is the authority getting it right for our children? Are we talking to other people in our schools and

involving everybody? There needs to be involvement in your child's education, with parents, teachers, attending parent council meetings. The attitudes we have just now will pass on to our children.

Another lady commented that she did not bring up her children to be discriminatory, to not include people. This is not the way they promote their faith. The proposal shows that there is a crisis situation with numbers. She feels that Catholic children should have access to Catholic education. It's a legislative requirement. There are resident Catholic children not getting access to St Ninian's and this needs to be addressed. She appreciates anxieties; however she is facing the possibility of her child being in temporary accommodation for the entire time at St Ninian's. She thinks it should be about giving our children the best education. Her question was what are the educational knock on effects of that? Her view is that it can't be as good as having proper classrooms, or science labs, in terms of educational benefits.

Miss Morrison explained that St Ninian's had 24 temporary hutments a number of years ago. The quality of the temporary accommodation ERC use is very good. There have also been hutments at OLM more recently and a number of teachers had indicated that they would prefer to be in the temporary accommodation rather than in the main school building. She reassured the parent that her child would not be solely in temporary accommodation. There would be 6 units put in and no pupil would be in these for the whole time. They are likely to be multi-functional to deliver the curriculum. St Ninian's is well used to having these. There is currently temporary accommodation at Cart Mill FC which is in the Williamwood car park until the new building opens. In a recent inspection of the Family Centre the Care Commission highly commended the environment in which the young people learned. It's about staff attitudes as well as the standard of accommodation.

Another St Cadoc's parent commented that they chose the school because they live next door and because of its faith based education. The concern is that her child is not guaranteed to go to the same school as her siblings because she doesn't have a baptismal certificate. Someone could move in to the area during the holidays and get a place. She feels that this is segregation and how can she explain that to her child?

Mrs Shaw said that it is not her role to advise what parents should tell their children. However we would not want to give them a negative message. However, siblings do get priority through the placing request criteria. If parents don't like the order of priorities in the consultation document, they can feed that back.

In response to a specific query from a parent with a son leaving the school and other one starting, Mr Webb suggested that this question would be better dealt with outwith this forum due to its complexity.

Mr Mahon added that, in terms of the proposal, a child who has a baptismal certificate in the Catholic Church and resides within the catchment area will have priority. The parent feels that priority places should be given to the children in the associated primary schools and what places are left would then go to baptised Catholics.

Mr Webb again suggested that the issue would be addressed fully in the final consultation report.

Another parent emphasised the trauma being experienced by parents having to deal with this difficult situation. He came into this country to join his wife in order to get a better education for their children. He would never have thought that he would be at the stage where he would be going through a proposal which would be discriminatory. He said he has

never been stopped in a church if it is over-subscribed by someone standing at the door asking for a baptismal certificate.

There was concern expressed by a parent who said that this is a capacity issue and they can understand that. However, it's becoming a faith issue between Catholics and non-Catholics and creating a division, whether legalities say so or not. His children feel discriminated against and there must be another solution. Priority could be given to the longest resident in the school. Surely for those people moving into the area who don't get a place in their catchment school, the council can do something to transport them to the next nearest Catholic school. There are complications and inconvenience of taking children to 3 different schools. Surely the higher priority should be to those longest residents.

Mr Webb replied that the gentleman should put this into his submission. However, there are only 2 denominational secondary schools, and while he takes the parent's point, we could reach a situation where there are 2 Catholic schools with a substantial non-Catholic proportion.

Again, the parent was asked to put alternative suggestions forward as part of the consultation.

A grandparent, who noted he also is a representative for the Muslim Community, commended ERC for doing more than what is legally required in the consultation. He said that it takes a long time to develop good relationships in communities. There is currently a good relationship with the Council but they are now at the point of this being disintegrated. Children are getting negative messages and it is causing them upset.

Mrs Shaw reiterated that all ERC schools are excellent and have a very inclusive ethos. Conversations have taken place with head teachers in the denominational primary schools to ensure that that ethos is maintained. There is tolerance, inclusion and a family atmosphere in the schools and head teachers are very sensitive to the fact that cruel remarks can be made by children.

Finally, a parent asked Mr Mahon, given that things are enshrined in statute and the legal position, did he personally feel comfortable with this. Mr Mahon confirmed that he did.

Mr Webb thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked officers for their input.

It was confirmed that there is a meeting taking place on Monday 3 October 2016 at 6pm in Woodfarm High School for the Muslim community to address issues which have emerged during the consultation.

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by East Renfrewshire Council to change the arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary in respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and non-denominational primary and secondary schools effective from January 2017.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of East Renfrewshire Council's proposal to change the arrangements for admissions and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary in respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and non-denominational primary and secondary schools effective from January 2017. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of East Renfrewshire; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meetings held on 21 and 28 September 2016 in connection with the council's proposal;

- attendance at the meetings with Parent Councils (West) held on 13 September 2016 and Parent Councils (East) on 19 September 2016 in connection with the council's proposal;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others;
- visits to the site of Our Lady of the Missions Primary School, St Cadoc's Primary School, St Ninian's High School, St Joseph's Primary School, Braidbar Primary School, Giffnock Primary School, Woodfarm High School, Thornliebank Primary School, St Luke's High School, Barrhead High School, St Vincent's Primary School (Glasgow) and St Angela's Primary School (Glasgow), including discussion with relevant consultees; and
- meeting with the Roman Catholic Church representative on the East Renfrewshire Education Committee.

2. Consultation Process

2.1 East Renfrewshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.

2.2 The formal consultation ran from 26 August until 10 October 2016. Public meetings were held on, 21 and 28 September 2016. These were well attended. Meetings with Parent Council representatives were held on 13 and 19 September 2016. An advert was placed in the local press outlining the proposed changes and inviting the views of interested parties. The council posted the consultation document on its website. Copies of the consultation document were made available at local schools, council offices at Barrhead and Eastwood Park and in local libraries. Children and young people across all East Renfrewshire denominational and non-denominational primary and secondary schools actively engaged in the consultation process as did children in two Glasgow primary schools. A summary document of the proposal was made available and issued to all interested parties. This engagement was well organised.

2.3 The council received 1718 responses to the proposal. Of these, 1238 (72%) were supportive. Four hundred and eighty (28%) opposed the proposal. Main points in support included giving Roman Catholic children priority for Roman Catholic schools when over subscription arose and that more priority should be given to East Renfrewshire Council residents. A main area of objection concerned the possibility of siblings being split up. The proposal was also seen by respondents of the Muslim faith to be discriminatory or divisive against other faith groups and that implementing the proposal could result in less diversity within denominational schools.

2.4 Formal written responses were received from a number of Parent Councils. The Parent Councils of St Cadoc's Primary School, St Ninian's High School, and St Joseph's Primary School were all supportive of the proposal. However, they

recognised that this may lead to difficult personal circumstances for some non-Catholic families with the possibility of siblings attending different schools. Our Lady of the Missions Primary School Parent Council's response reflected the diversity of views gathered from a survey of parents. Seventy Six per cent of surveyed parents were supportive. St Ninian's High School Parent Council's support was conditional on the basis that placing requests are effectively managed to ensure no over capacity at any schools and that adequate resources are committed to manage the projected capacity issues from 2021 to 2029. St Angela's Parent Council (Glasgow) in their written submission rejected the proposal. Their main concern was that under the proposal St Angela's pupils would now be given lowest priority in terms of placing requests.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 There has been a significant increase in demand for places in the east of the council area, especially in the following Roman Catholic schools: Our Lady of the Missions Primary School; St Cadoc's Primary School; St Joseph's Primary School and St Ninian's High School. As a result many of these schools are either at or approaching full capacity. This situation has occurred despite actions to alleviate the pressure on denominational schools. The proposal to change the admissions policy will allow the council to fulfil its duty to provide education to children and young people who are baptised into the Roman Catholic Church in a denominational school, including when a school is oversubscribed. The proposal may have implications for younger siblings, not of the Roman Catholic faith who may wish to attend the same denominational school as their brother or sister. The council needs to consider the potential impact for children and young people and their families if they require to be educated in different schools across the council, or elsewhere should the proposal go ahead.

3.2 This proposal has a number of educational benefits for children. The proposal will help reduce the risk of high occupancy rates and reduce the pressure on general purpose areas. It will enable the council to ensure best value on managing its estate. Potential capital investment can be reduced. Available resources can be directed more equitably. Timetabling of pupils, teachers and teaching spaces will be improved.

3.3 Staff from denominational and non-denominational schools who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. They felt the proposal would improve the quality of learning by reducing the existing pressure on accommodation and resources. Timetabling and planning would be improved. However, staff were concerned about the possible impact on the cultural diversity. This was seen as a real strength and contributor to the positive ethos within schools. Staff expressed concern about the potential for siblings to be split up and their wish for this to be given higher priority in terms of placing requests. Staff at St Ninian's High School were concerned about the impact of long term use of temporary accommodation on both staff and young people.

3.4 Parents, carers and Parent Council representatives from denominational and non-denominational schools who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. They agreed that priority should be given to Roman Catholic children

when schools were oversubscribed. They recognised the need to address overcrowding and make better use of resources and space to enhance learning. Parents from non-denominational schools would welcome additional pupils at their school. However, parents expressed a number of concerns. These included the capacity of St Ninian's High School to accommodate additional numbers over a sustained period without detriment to the quality of learning. The priority given to siblings of children currently attending denominational primary schools in the east when progressing to St Ninian's High School was a major concern to St Cadoc's Primary School parents, particularly those of other faiths. Parents expressed the view that siblings be moved higher up the proposed priority list for placing requests.

3.5 The majority of children and young people from denominational and non-denominational schools who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. Young people across non-denominational schools would be happy to welcome pupils to their school. Young people played an active part in the consultation process. Surveys were organised in every school. Results in almost all schools indicated strong support for the proposal. They recognised the need to address the over capacity issue. Money could be better spent on delivering quality teaching and learning rather than additional accommodation. However young people from St Ninian's High School expressed concerns about the possible loss of much valued cultural diversity. They were also concerned that the proposed temporary accommodation might become a permanent fixture. The majority of young people (62%) from Woodfarm High School who participated in the survey did not support the proposal. Their main concern was that in future siblings, particularly those who live outside East Renfrewshire, may not gain access. They would wish siblings to be moved higher up the priority list in terms of placing requests. This view was also reflected by young people in other schools.

3.6 The council also received written submissions from the Scottish Catholic Education Service, the Archdiocese of Glasgow and the Diocese of Paisley. All were fully supportive of the proposal to change arrangements for admissions to oversubscribed Roman Catholic schools within East Renfrewshire. They saw the proposal as a practical solution to an on-going problem. The Diocese of Paisley, in its response to the council, expressed concerns around the substantial pressures that will exist in St Ninian's High School, in particular, during years 2021-2029. Of particular concern is the potential impact on resources, accommodation, recreational and social areas as well as the effective delivery of the curriculum. In taking forward its proposal, the council will need to engage with the Diocese to address these concerns.

4. Summary

Overall, the council's proposal is of educational benefit. The majority of stakeholders who submitted responses were supportive of the proposal. The council's proposal, if it proceeds would reduce the risk of over subscription and resulting high occupancy rates in denominational schools. It will also enable the council to meet its legislative requirements in relation to denominational education and allow the council to demonstrate best value through making effective use of its existing school estate. In taking forward the proposal the council needs to set out how it will address the concerns raised during the consultation. These include, the order of priority given to

siblings of those families, including those of other faiths, who already have children attending denominational and non–denominational schools within East Renfrewshire. How the authority intends to meet the proposed increased demand in St Ninian’s High School during the period 2021–2029, without loss of quality, needs to be explained in more detail.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
October 2016**

East Renfrewshire Council: Education Department

Equalities Impact Assessment of Proposed New Policy

The general equality duty requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to:-

- Eliminate unlawful treatment;
- Advance equality of opportunity; and
- Foster good relations

across the following protected characteristics:-

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Sex and Sexual Orientation
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion and Belief

1. Title of the new policy/proposal	Proposed Changes to the Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools Effective from January 2017.
2. Description of the new policy/proposal	The purpose of the proposal is noted in the consultative proposal document on page 3, paragraphs 10 and 11; and paragraph 67.
3. Responsibility for implementing the policy	East Renfrewshire Council.
4. In what way does the proposed new policy eliminate unlawful treatment of the group:	<p>The vision of the Education Department, <i>Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences</i>, is at the heart of the work that department and school staff undertake as they seek to provide the highest quality education and services to develop all children and young people.</p> <p>There is a statutory requirement for every education authority to secure, for their area, adequate and efficient provision of school education. East Renfrewshire Council has organised the structure of school provision to ensure that children can attend their local catchment denominational or non-denominational primary, and can then progress to their local secondary school. In providing adequate and efficient provision of school education, East Renfrewshire Education Department is required to take account of the relevant legislation and guidance as set out on page 3, paragraph 12 of the consultative document.</p> <p>The proposal sets out how the changes to admission arrangements and P7 to S1 transfer arrangements will address oversubscription from within the catchment through use of consistent prioritisation. This would give greater long-term certainty to help ensure that children attending their local primary can progress to their local secondary in line with a 3-18 curriculum supporting transition, continuity and progression.</p>

		The Council is required to formally consult on changes to school admission arrangements and variations to the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school. How this is carried out and who must be consulted is clearly set out in the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended. This process ensures that all key groups are consulted with (see page 25, paragraph 146 of consultative proposal document). Education Scotland also has a statutory role in the process.
Age		The proposal sets out how East Renfrewshire Council will provide clarity on the proposed arrangements to address oversubscription by pupils from the school's delineated catchment areas to any denominational (Roman Catholic) and non-denominational primary and secondary school. In particular, it set out a single set of criteria to be applied when a school is oversubscribed. The policy also ensures that ERC schools remain open to all pupils, providing the opportunity for children of other faiths and none to receive a Roman Catholic faith based education.
Disability		n/a
Gender reassignment		n/a
Sex and Sexual Orientation		n/a
Marriage and Civil Partnership		n/a
Pregnancy and Maternity		n/a
Race		In the consultative proposal document paragraphs 68-87 on pages 13-16 set out the proposed admission and transfer arrangements for ERC Roman Catholic and non-denominational schools. All children living in the delineated catchment area would be entitled to enrol in P1 regardless of race, belief and religion. Only in the event that a school is over-subscribed will applications be regarded as placing requests.
Religion and Belief		The proposal ensures that East Renfrewshire Council continues to provide sufficient denominational (Roman Catholic) places to meet anticipated known demand. There will also still be the opportunity for children of other faiths or none to receive a Roman Catholic faith based education.

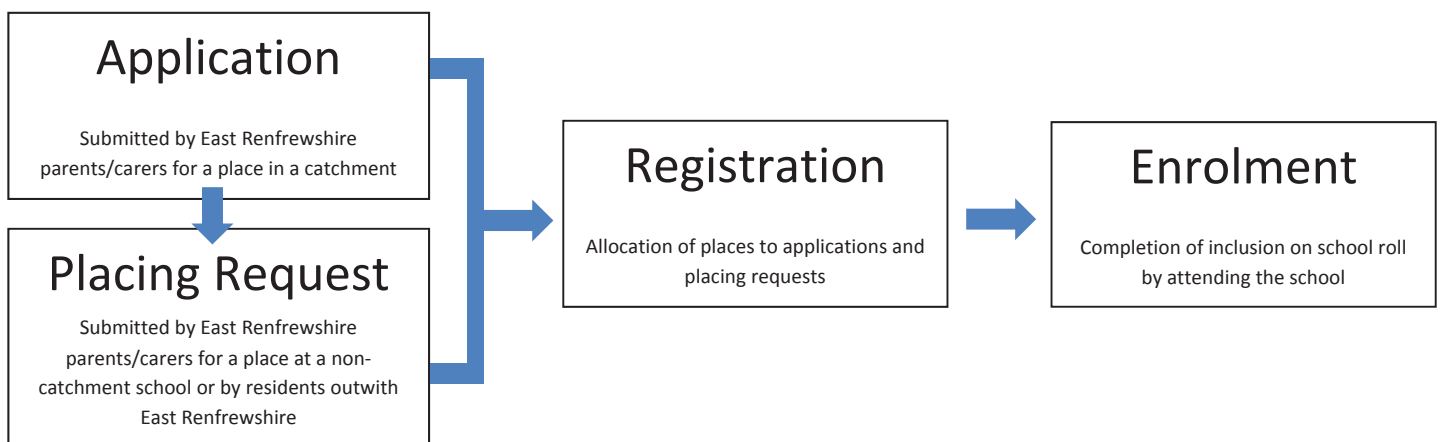
5. In what way does the proposed new policy advance equality of opportunity for each group:	
Age	<p>The proposed policy advances equality of opportunity for those children within ERC who attend an ERC primary school as they will be able to progress to their local secondary in line with a 3-18 curriculum, supporting progression and transition.</p> <p>The proposal will also enable the Council to ensure best value in managing its schools estate. The proposal minimises the extent of any necessary capital investment recognising that there are adequate school places to meet needs. As such available resources for education can be directed to key priorities and allow for a more equitable distribution of resources. There is also likely to be a benefit for pupils in reducing the risk of very high occupancy rates in Roman Catholic schools.</p>
Disability	n/a
Gender reassignment	n/a
Sex and Sexual Orientation	n/a
Marriage and Civil Partnership	n/a
Pregnancy and Maternity	n/a
Race	n/a
Religion and Belief	<p>The proposed policy advances equality of opportunity for those within this group who are of a particular religious faith (Roman Catholic) and who wish to have their children enrolled in such a faith (Roman Catholic) based school.</p> <p>Families of all faiths or none will still have every opportunity to seek enrolment within a Roman Catholic school.</p>
6. In what way does the proposed new policy foster good relations with each group:	
Age	n/a
Disability	n/a
Gender reassignment	n/a
Sex and Sexual Orientation	n/a
Marriage and Civil Partnership	n/a

Pregnancy and Maternity		n/a
Race		n/a
Religion and Belief		The proposal introduces more control on school applications and would ensure that any remaining places in denominational (Roman Catholic) schools are prioritised for baptised Roman Catholic pupils moving into the area. These pupils would be more likely to attend their local catchment Roman Catholic school instead of being redirected and placed in a school outwith their local area or to a non-denominational school. As a result pupils will face less disruption and be more settled, and will be less likely to face the prospect of a second transfer between schools after moving into the area.
7. Potential for the proposed new policy to have a negative impact (Low, Medium, High)		High If this is deemed to be high, the following section should be completed.
8. Evidence to be considered in relation to the protected characteristics.		The consultation document considers in detail the present position (pages 4-10), the effects of implementing the proposal (pages 16-19) education benefits (pages 20-22) and the implications of the proposal (page 23); this reflects evidence in respect to age and religion.
9. Evidence of higher or lower participation, uptake or exclusion by any group within the protected characteristics.		All ERC pupils remain entitled to a place in ERC schools; it is only in the event that a school is over-subscribed that the prioritisation through placing request will be used. The Equality Act and associated guidance recognises that denominational schools are set up primarily to serve those of that faith and allows for criteria based on belief to be used in assessing placing requests. Of all East Renfrewshire resident children declared as Muslim in our schools, 27% (official census 2015) attend a Roman Catholic school, which represents approximately 260 pupils across primary and secondary, and the majority (73%) attends non-denominational schools. The evidence set out in the document (paragraph 97) indicates that there are adequate Roman Catholic places to accommodate all Roman Catholic baptised catchment children and a number of places to meet demand from catchment children of other faiths or none.
10. In the context of the preceding sections, identify any groups whom you consider should be consulted. Please specify and give reasons.		In carrying out a formal consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended the Council has consulted with all relevant statutory consultees. The Council has held two public meetings and two meetings for Parent Council members. In addition and in response to expressed wishes the Council has consulted with representatives from the Muslim community. Education Scotland also has a statutory role in the process; this includes meetings with staff, pupils and parents including meeting with the Roman Catholic Church representative on the East Renfrewshire Education Committee.
11. Actions to be taken to address any issues identified and ways in		The proposal includes transitional arrangements so that all pupils entitled to a place under current

<p>which positive impact can be demonstrated.</p>	<p>admission arrangements and enrolled by the end of December 2016 continue to be entitled to transfer to the associated secondary school.</p> <p>As part of the wider consultation, all responses will be considered in finalising the policy.</p> <p>Education Department Officers have arranged to meet with representatives of the Muslim community to continue to foster good relations.</p>
<p>12. Justification for the proposed new policy based on the above information.</p>	<p>This is set out in the consultative document, in particular in terms of the education benefits and implications of the proposal.</p>
<p>Name of Departmental Officer developing the proposed policy:-</p> <p>Mark Ratter – Head of Education Services Maureen Sneddon – Quality Improvement Officer</p>	
<p>Date of this assessment</p> <p>October 2016</p>	

Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic & Non-Denominational Primary & Secondary Schools

Effective from January 2017



Contents

1.	BACKGROUND	3
1.1	Catchment areas	3
1.2	Associated schools.....	3
1.3	Roman Catholic/non-denominational schools	4
1.4	Applying for a school place.....	4
1.5	Oversubscribed schools.....	4
1.6	Choice of school	5
1.7	Reserved places.....	5
2.	THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE.....	5
2.1	Age for commencement of primary education	5
2.2	Defer entry	5
2.3	Early commencement of primary education	6
2.4	Applying for a P1 school place during the normal placing round.....	6
2.5	Applying for an S1 school place during the normal placing round.....	7
2.6	Applying for a school place outwith the normal placing round	8
2.7	Change of circumstances.....	8
2.8	Applying for a catchment school place before being resident within the school’s delineated catchment area	9
3	THE DECISION MAKING PROCEDURE	10
3.1	Decisions on applications as part of the normal placing round	10
3.2	Decisions on applications received outwith the normal placing round	11
4	APPEALING A DECISION	11
4.1	Appeal consideration.....	11
4.2	No preferred alternative school recorded on the application	11
4.3	Preferred alternative school recorded on the application	11
4.4	Submitting an appeal.....	11
5	REDIRECTION	11
5.1	The process.....	11
5.2	Returning to a catchment school after being redirected	12
6	TRANSPORT	12
6.1	Transport provision	12
6.2	Redirected children	12
7	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	12
7.1	Submission of information	12
7.2	Schools and school handbooks.....	13

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Catchment areas

- 1.1.1 The geographical area of East Renfrewshire Council is divided into delineated catchment areas for primary and secondary schools. Each school is either Roman Catholic (Roman Catholic) or non-denominational.
- 1.1.2 The arrangements described in this document do not apply to Calderwood Lodge Primary School. There are separate arrangements for this school which should be referred to. Calderwood Lodge Primary School provides a Jewish education including compulsory Hebrew and Kodesh within an extended school day. All admissions to Calderwood Lodge Primary School must be made by a placing request and pupils attending the primary and live within East Renfrewshire will automatically transfer to Mearns Castle High School for secondary education.
- 1.1.3 Each residential property which is located within East Renfrewshire Council has a 'catchment' Roman Catholic and non-denominational primary and secondary school assigned to it. This is determined by the geographical location of the property and each school's delineated catchment area in which the property is located. In a very small number of cases, properties may have more than one Roman Catholic or non-denominational primary or secondary assigned to it. Further information on these properties can be provided by request to the Education Department.
- 1.1.4 Although the Council aims to provide enough places for all children at the preferred catchment primary and secondary school, living within the delineated catchment area of a school does not guarantee a child a place at a catchment school.
- 1.1.5 A map (graphical representation) of a school's delineated catchment area can be viewed at each school or the Council's Offices at Eastwood Park or Barrhead Main Street, by prior arrangement. Currently these maps are not available online. For more information on catchment schools, please see the Council's website. If there is any doubt regarding the catchment schools for a particular property, contact the Education Department who can advise accurately.
- 1.1.6 The location of the property of the parent/carer with whom the child resides is that used in determining local school catchment areas for the child.

1.2 Associated schools

- 1.2.1 With the exception of Mearns Primary School, each primary school is associated with a number of other primary schools and a secondary school to form a single cluster of schools. The catchment area of the secondary school is made up of the catchment areas of the associated primary schools. There are five non-denominational clusters of associated schools and two Roman Catholic clusters of associated schools in East Renfrewshire.
- 1.2.2 It is assumed that for East Renfrewshire parents/carers, the secondary school place that their child will apply for is the catchment secondary school of the same denomination as the primary school their child already attends. The secondary school is deemed their designated local secondary school.
 - 1.2.2.1 Mearns Primary School's delineated catchment area overlaps that of Eastwood and Mearns Castle high schools. Mearns Primary School works collaboratively with both clusters.

- 1.2.2.2 For the purpose of placing request administration, Eastwood High School is the associated secondary of Mearns Primary School for children who attend Mearns Primary School but do not reside within the delineated catchment area of the school.

1.3 Roman Catholic/non-denominational schools

- 1.3.1 Any East Renfrewshire parent/carer has the choice of applying for a place in the designated catchment schools, on first entry to education provided by East Renfrewshire Council or as part of the transition from primary to secondary school.
- 1.3.2 Parents/carers of children who are baptised Roman Catholic, and who want their child to apply for a place in a Roman Catholic school, should inform the school/Council and provide evidence in the form of their child's Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate at the time of application. The Council aims to provide enough places for all baptised Roman Catholic children to attend their catchment Roman Catholic school. The Council will provide a Roman Catholic education to all baptised Roman Catholic children of East Renfrewshire parents/carers at an educational establishment within the authority.

1.4 Applying for a school place

- 1.4.1 Applications for a place in a catchment primary or secondary school can be made by East Renfrewshire parents/carers for their child:
- 1.4.1.1 for initial commencement of education at the beginning of the primary 1 year stage.
- 1.4.1.2 at any stage when becoming resident within the school's delineated catchment area.
- 1.4.1.3 when, as a result of being educated elsewhere (e.g. home schooling or private education), they have never attended an East Renfrewshire Council educational establishment, but are now returning to the public education system.
- 1.4.1.4 at time of transition from primary to secondary education.
- 1.4.2 If after enrolment in an East Renfrewshire educational establishment, the parent/carer wishes for their child to change to an alternative school, regardless of whether or not the desired change is to another catchment school, a placing request is required to be submitted. See "Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form" for further details on making a placing request.
- 1.4.3 Parents/carers who do not reside within the delineated area of East Renfrewshire Council are required to submit a placing request in order for their child to be considered for a place in an East Renfrewshire school. Please see "Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form" for further details.

1.5 Oversubscribed schools

- 1.5.1 In the event that the number of applications from catchment pupils is greater than the number of places available at that stage in the catchment school, all catchment applications will be processed as placing requests with registration places allocated based on the Council's published placing request priorities. See "Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form" for further details.

- 1.5.2 Places are limited by factors including the availability of accommodation, the cost of extending accommodation, and the cost of employing additional staff. For this reason, it is not always possible to offer parents their first choice of school.

1.6 Choice of school

- 1.6.1 Parents/carers have the right to make a placing request for their child or children to be educated in a school other than their local catchment school. The Council must grant placing requests unless there is a legal reason not to. Please see “Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form” for further details.
- 1.6.2 Parents/carers who intend to make a placing request for a non-catchment school should in the first instance apply for a place in their catchment school, and also inform the head teacher of their intention to submit a placing request. This is required to ensure there is a catchment place allocated in the event a placing request cannot be granted.

1.7 Reserved places

- 1.7.1 The Council is entitled to reserve a reasonable number of places for children moving into each school's delineated catchment area up to and during the following academic year. Please see “Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form” for further details.

2. THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE

2.1 Age for commencement of primary education

- 2.1.1 Enrolment to the primary one year stage at East Renfrewshire schools takes place once a year at the start of the new session in August. Children who reach the age of five years between 1 March of that year and the last day of February of the following year are expected to apply for a place in a catchment school. For example, children turning 5 between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2017 will be eligible to apply for a school place for August 2016.

2.2 Defer entry

- 2.2.1 If a child reaches the age of five during January or February (after the August in which they are supposed to commence their primary education), parents/carers may choose to defer entry until the following academic year. A fully funded nursery place will be available for such children.
- 2.2.2 If a child reaches the age of five between the start of the new academic session in August and the end of December, parents/carers may also choose to defer entry for a year however, a funded nursery place will not automatically be provided.
- 2.2.3 If a parent/carer intends to defer commencement of their child's primary education, they should still register their child in the appropriate catchment primary school and advise the head teacher of their intention to defer entry. The appropriate paperwork will then be completed and returned to the Education Department for processing.
- 2.2.4 Should your child's deferred entry be confirmed, it will be assumed that you will not require the P1 place for the commencement of the academic year for which the deferral was submitted; should you change your mind on deferring your child before the start of the academic year, there is no guarantee that a place will be available in your preferred

catchment school.

- 2.2.5 If you defer your child's entry to primary education, you are required to apply for a place in your preferred catchment school in January of the deferral year in order to be considered for a P1 place commencing the next academic year in August. This application will be treated as a new application to register your child and will be treated equally along with all other applications submitted as part of the Normal Placing Round and will be processed as per section 3.

2.3 Early commencement of primary education

- 2.3.1 The Council does not have to educate children who are not of school age. Parents/carers may wish to make a request for early entry to school for a child whose fifth birthday falls after the last day in February. Requests for early entry to school should be made directly to the Education Department.

2.4 Applying for a P1 school place during the normal placing round

- 2.4.1 Applications for P1 places commencing at the beginning of the academic year in August should be made in person at a specified location during School Application Week which takes place during the second or third week in January. Applications submitted after School Application Week should be made to the catchment school of your choice until the end of the academic year prior to which your child will begin primary education. However it is advisable where possible to make your application during School Application Week as this provides you with the optimum chance of securing a place in your preferred school.

- 2.4.2 The exact date of School Application Week will be published annually from around the beginning of December onwards, and will be visible at least 4 weeks before the commencement of School Application Week on the Council's website as well as in the local published press. At present it is not possible to apply online. Schools should be contacted directly for specific details on their application process; schools may also publish details of how to apply for a catchment place on their website.

- 2.4.3 Parents/carers must provide satisfactory documentary evidence of the age of their child and that their family reside within the catchment area of the school. This evidence includes:

- the child's Birth Certificate
- a recent Child Benefit Statement *
- the most recent Council Tax Notice
- proof of ownership such as a mortgage statement
- a signed and independently witnessed residency/tenant agreement for at least 1 year i.e. evidence that covers the entire calendar year from the date of application. If the agreement expires before this date, a further agreement will be required to be submitted at a later date before registration will be confirmed.

* In the event that a Child Benefit Statement is not available, a Driving Licence or a Bank Statement/utility bill showing transactions over the most recent 3 months and the applicant's address may be accepted.

The list above is not exhaustive and the Council retains the right to ask for further information when proof of residency is not satisfied.

- 2.4.4 In the situation where there is an agreement for shared custody of a child where a child lives with a different parent/carer regularly at a different property, the local catchment school is defined by the Education Department as the residence of the parent/carer who receives Child Benefit for said child. Recent documentary evidence of receipt of Child Benefit or equivalent paperwork will require to be submitted to the Education Department. In the event

that a Child Benefit Statement is not available please contact the Education Department for further guidance.

- 2.4.5 At the time of application, parent\carer's can identify an alternative school to be considered should the Council be unable to satisfy the catchment school selected due to oversubscription at that stage. This alternative school is called the preferred alternative school.
- 2.4.6 Applications for places in the P1 year stage submitted as part of the Normal Placing Round will be processed as per section 3.
- 2.4.7 A placing request must be submitted for children to attend a primary school for which they do not reside within the delineated catchment area of. Please see "Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form" for further details.
- 2.4.8 In all cases parents/carers must inform the Education Department of their intentions for their child by completing and returning the application documentation by the application deadline.

2.5 Applying for an S1 school place during the normal placing round

- 2.5.1 As part of the P7-S1 transitions programme, all parents/carers of children who attend an East Renfrewshire primary school will be provided with details of the S1 application process in early December.
- 2.5.2 Parents/carers residing within East Renfrewshire Council should complete the application process for a place at their preferred catchment secondary school and provide evidence of their continued residency within the delineated catchment area. This evidence must be submitted to the East Renfrewshire primary school that the child attends; documentation sent to parents/carers will advise of the primary school's procedures and deadline for submission of evidence.
- 2.5.3 In the situation where there is an agreement for shared custody of a child where a child lives with a different parent/carers regularly at a different property, the local catchment school is defined by the Education Department as the residence of the parent/carers who receives Child Benefit for said child. Recent documentary evidence of receipt of Child Benefit or equivalent paperwork will require to be submitted to the Education Department. In the event that a Child Benefit Statement is not available please contact the Education Department for further guidance.
- 2.5.4 At the time of application, parent/carers can identify an alternative school to be considered should the Council be unable to satisfy the catchment school selected due to oversubscription at that stage. This alternative school is called the preferred alternative school.
- 2.5.5 Applications for places in the S1 year stage submitted as part of the Normal Placing Round will be processed as per section 3.
- 2.5.6 East Renfrewshire parents/carers with children residing in the authority and not being educated in an East Renfrewshire Council primary school, but who wish for their child to attend an East Renfrewshire secondary school from the commencement of the S1 year stage, should contact the Education Department in the December to apply for a place in the following academic session.
- 2.5.7 Attendance at a non-catchment secondary school will require a placing request to be made. Please see "Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-

Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form” for further details.

- 2.5.8 In all cases, parents/carers must inform the Education Department of their intentions for their child by completing and returning the application documentation by the end of December.

2.6 Applying for a school place outwith the normal placing round

- 2.6.1 Applications for a place to commence at any point during the academic year outwith the Normal Placing Round should be made by a parent/carer directly to the preferred catchment school.
- 2.6.1.1 Where places are available the school will agree a date and time for the parent/carer to submit their application along with the required appropriate documentary evidence as described in paragraph 2.4.3.
- 2.6.1.2 Applicants may find that the school is already full at the year stage requested. In this situation parents/carers will be asked to contact the Education Department to discuss options for redirecting their child to an alternative establishment. We will do our best to meet requests and provide support with transport where appropriate. Please see section 6 for further details on transport.
- 2.6.2 Any application for a catchment school place being submitted during a school holiday should be directed to the Education Department. The Education Department will arrange for you to make your submission at the Education Department’s headquarters by prior arrangement; documentary evidence, as per paragraph 2.4.3, will be required to be provided at this point. The Education Department will process your application.

2.7 Change of circumstances

- 2.7.1 Applications cannot become registrations until all required documentary evidence has been received in full. If a child’s location of residency changes after submission of an application for a catchment school, the parent/carer should inform the school immediately or, if during a school holiday, the Education Department. The Council reserves the right to refuse a place in any of its educational establishments when it is not satisfied that an application meets the required criteria for a place.
- 2.7.2 If you are or become a resident within the catchment area of the school which your child attends, and at a later date move out of the catchment area, you will be required to submit a placing request to remain application.
- 2.7.3 Where the new family residence is outwith the delineated catchment area of the school applied for but remains within East Renfrewshire Council:
- 2.7.3.1 and the parent/carer has not yet been sent confirmation of a registered place being granted, the application will be rescinded and a new application will require to be submitted for the new catchment school as appropriate.
- 2.7.3.2 and a registered place has been confirmed at the school initially applied for however, you wish to make an application for your new catchment school. You will be required to inform the school you no longer require this place and make an application for the new catchment school as soon as possible.
- 2.7.3.3 and a registered place has been confirmed at the school initially applied for, a placing request to remain as registered on the school roll is required to be submitted to the school as soon as possible. If the registered school is not redirecting children to

alternative establishments as a result of the year stage being full, placing requests to remain will be granted. In the event that a placing request to remain cannot be granted, and a place is available in the new catchment school of the same sector (Roman Catholic or non-denominational), the Education Department will require the parent/carer to make contact with the new catchment school to make arrangements for submission of an application.

If the new catchment school of the same denomination (Roman Catholic or non-denominational) is full at the year stage in question, the child will require to be redirected to an agreed alternative school in negotiation with the parent/carer.

2.7.4 If the location of the new residence is outwith East Renfrewshire Council:

2.7.4.1 and the parent/carer has not yet been sent confirmation of a registered place being granted, the application will be rescinded and the parent/carer will be required to apply for a catchment place to the appropriate local authority where the new residence is located as soon as possible.

2.7.4.2 and a registered place has been confirmed at the school initially applied for however, you wish to make an application for your new catchment school. You will be required to inform the school you no longer require this place and make an application for a catchment place to the appropriate local authority where the new residence is located.

2.7.4.3 and a registered place has been confirmed at the school initially applied for, a placing request to remain as registered on the school roll is required to be submitted to the school as soon as possible. If the registered school is not redirecting children to alternative establishments as a result of the year stage being full, placing requests to remain will be granted. In the event that a placing request to remain cannot be granted, the parent/carer will be required to apply for a catchment place to the appropriate local authority where the new residence is located.

2.7.5 In all cases a request to remain must be submitted where a child no longer resides within the delineated catchment area of the school they attend and they wish to remain registered or enrolled there. Where there are children who are being redirected to an alternative establishment due to the year stage requested being full, the request will be refused and the parent/carer will be required to remove the child from the school register within 4 weeks.

2.8 **Applying for a catchment school place before being resident within the school's delineated catchment area**

2.8.1 Applications for catchment school places prior to becoming resident with the school's delineated catchment area should be made no more than 4 weeks in advance of taking up residency. If you attempt to make an application more than 4 weeks in advance of becoming resident within the school's delineated catchment area, you will be advised that you must reapply when your date of residency is no further than 4 weeks in the future.

2.8.2 On applying for a catchment place in advance of residency, satisfactory documental evidence of future residency must be supplied; only on providing satisfactory documental evidence will a catchment place be temporarily held (for a maximum of 4 weeks). On becoming resident within the school's delineated catchment area you must provide further documentary evidence confirming your residency; your child will not be able to enrol at a catchment school until evidence of residency is provided.

2.8.3 If after 4 weeks you fail to provide further documentary evidence of your residency within the school's delineated catchment area, the place will be released and made available or offered to other catchment applicants who satisfy the criteria. Should you make a further request for a future catchment place it will be placed at the end of the list of any "live"

applications i.e. those already recorded for a place commencing 4 weeks or less in the future.

3 THE DECISION MAKING PROCEDURE

3.1 Decisions on applications as part of the normal placing round

- 3.1.1 In the case where the number of applications submitted for a place in a catchment school is less than the number of places available all applications will be granted as registrations.
- 3.1.2 If the number of applications received for a place in a catchment school is greater than the number of available places, i.e. the school's stage is oversubscribed, all applications received on time will be treated as placing requests and will be processed by the Education Department against its published priorities. Placing requests received from non-catchment pupils will not be included.
- 3.1.3 In the event that a catchment school is unable to satisfy an application and a preferred alternative school has been recorded, the preferred alternative school will be treated as a placing request and will be processed along with all other placing requests received by the placing request deadline and in line with the published placing request priorities.
 - 3.1.3.1 If the preferred alternative school request can be accommodated the child will be registered for this school. This will be recorded as a successful placing request and not a redirected child.
 - 3.1.3.2 If the preferred alternative school placing request cannot be satisfied and the initial school applied for is a Roman Catholic school for a baptised Roman Catholic child, the child will be redirected to another Roman Catholic school until a place becomes available in their catchment Roman Catholic school.
 - 3.1.3.3 If the preferred alternative school placing request cannot be satisfied and the initial school applied for was a Roman Catholic school for a child of another faith or none, the child will be registered for a place in the catchment non-denominational school.
 - 3.1.3.4 If the preferred alternative school placing request cannot be satisfied and the initial school applied for was a non-denominational school, the child will be redirected to an alternative non-denominational school.
- 3.1.4 In the event that a catchment school is unable to satisfy an application and no preferred alternative school has been recorded:
 - 3.1.4.1 If the application is for a Roman Catholic school for a baptised Roman Catholic child, the child will be redirected to another school until a place becomes available in their catchment Roman Catholic school.
 - 3.1.4.2 If the application is for a Roman Catholic school for a child of another faith or none, the child will be registered for a place in the catchment non-denominational school. If no preferred alternative school has been recorded the Education Department will presume that the parent wishes their child to attend the catchment non-denominational school as an alternative. This will not be treated as a redirect.
 - 3.1.4.3 If the application is for a non-denominational school the child will be redirected to an alternative non-denominational school.
- 3.1.5 Parents/carers will receive written notification of the outcome of their application no later than April 30.

3.2 Decisions on applications received outwith the normal placing round

- 3.2.1 Applications received outwith the normal placing round will be processed by the school in line with section 3.1.
- 3.2.2 Applications received by the Education Department during school holidays will be processed by the Education Department in line with section 3.1.

4 APPEALING A DECISION

4.1 Appeal consideration

- 4.1.1 The Council appreciates that parents/carers may be very disappointed that their child cannot go to the school they desire because the year stage at the school is full. Parents/carers should have a good reason for asking an appeal committee to look at their request again.

4.2 No preferred alternative school recorded on the application

- 4.2.1 Where no alternative school has been recorded by the applicant, the applicant will have the right to make an appeal to the Education Appeal Committee, regarding the outcome of the placing request process, in relation to their application.

4.3 Preferred alternative school recorded on the application

- 4.3.1 Where an applicant has recorded a preferred alternative school, and that alternative school is processed as a placing request due to the catchment school applied for being full, the applicant cannot appeal to the Education Appeal Committee in relation to the catchment school placing request refusal.
- 4.3.2 In the situation where an applicant's placing request to a preferred alternative school cannot be accommodated, the applicant will have the right to make an appeal to the independent Education Appeal Committee regarding the placing request for the preferred alternative school.

4.4 Submitting an appeal

- 4.4.1 If an applicant decides to appeal against a placing request decision they will not be able to make another placing request until the appeal is heard or is withdrawn.
See "Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School in East Renfrewshire- Guidance Information and Application Form" for further details on making an appeal.

5 REDIRECTION

5.1 The process

- 5.1.1 In negotiation with parents/carers, redirected children will attend an appropriate alternative establishment until a place becomes available in their requested catchment school.
- 5.1.2 As places become available in the requested catchment school these will be offered to parents/carers of redirected children in the order in which the applications for a place in the school were received.

- 5.1.3 Where the number of redirected children with the same application date is greater than the number of places which have become available in the catchment school, the published priorities for placing requests will be applied.

5.2 Returning to a catchment school after being redirected

- 5.2.1 When places in the preferred catchment school become available, parents/carers may instead wish for their child to remain in their redirected school and not return to their catchment school. In such situations, the child will no longer be regarded as a redirected child and will be removed from the redirected list.

6 TRANSPORT

6.1 Transport provision

- 6.1.1 Further information on meeting the criteria for free transport is available via the Council's website.
- 6.1.2 We cannot provide support with transport to schools outwith East Renfrewshire Council.
- 6.1.3 Pupils admitted to a school by way of a placing request will not be entitled to transport except when the school is oversubscribed at the point of first enrolment at their designated local catchment school and they meet the criteria in terms of distance (home to school).

6.2 Redirected children

- 6.2.1 Where a child has been redirected to a non-catchment school, the cost of transport will be met by the Council if the free transport criteria has been met.
- 6.2.2 If the family of a redirected child chooses to keep their child in the redirected school when a place in an appropriate catchment school becomes available, travelling costs will no longer be met by the Council.

7 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7.1 Submission of information

- 7.1.1 The information provided as part of an application for catchment place or placing request must be full and correct in every respect to the best of the parent's/carer's knowledge. East Renfrewshire Council will conduct checks to establish the accuracy of information supplied which may include visits to premises to confirm residence.
- 7.1.2 From the point of applying for a school place (catchment or placing request), there will be ongoing investigations and scrutiny of children's entitlement to attend, at any point, a school (in respect of their residence within the delineated catchment area of the school); this will continue after school enrolment. The Council will use all means available to it in order to investigate suspicions or allegations of fraud, including but not limited to, surveillance in cases where it is necessary and proportionate to do so. At any point, if there are any concerns regarding a child's entitlement to a place, the Education Department will seek documentary evidence to validate a child's entitlement to a place in a school.
- 7.1.3 A child's parent(s)/carer(s) is/are responsible for submitting a placing request to remain for a child in the event that they no longer reside within the school's delineated catchment area and wish the child to continue to attend the school. Where it is found that a child is no

longer entitled to a place in a school (whether that be before or after school enrolment) since they no longer reside in a property in the delineated catchment area associated with the school, and a placing request to remain has not been submitted and approved, the Council will seek to exclude that child from the school in question.

- 7.1.4 Any attempts to obtain a place by deception may result in the rescinding of the parent's/carer's request for their child's place in a school and the matter being passed to the Procurator Fiscal's office for consideration of criminal proceedings.

7.2 Schools and school handbooks

- 7.2.1 Further information on all East Renfrewshire's educational establishments is available via the Council's website.
- 7.2.2 All of East Renfrewshire's schools have their own website where you will find a wide variety of information specific to each school.

Education: November 2016



Making a Placing Request or Request to Remain to a Roman Catholic or Non-Denominational Primary or Secondary School In East Renfrewshire

Guidance Information and Application Form

Effective from January 2017

If you are making a request for a place in Calderwood Lodge, a different set of criteria is used to allocate places.

This document should be read in conjunction with Arrangements for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in Respect of all East Renfrewshire Roman Catholic & Non-Denominational Primary & Secondary Schools, Effective from January 2017

Making a Placing Request to a School in East Renfrewshire

1. Information

- 1.1 Parents/carers have the right to make a placing request for their child or children to be educated in a school other than their local catchment school.

2. When a Placing Request is Required

- 2.1 A placing request is required if:

- 2.1.1 the number of applications received in respect of catchment pupils for a school is greater than the number of places available (in such situations the applications will be deemed and processed as placing requests; and there is no need by the parent/carer to submit a placing request)
- 2.1.2 a parent/carer wishes for their child to attend a school other than a designated catchment school
- 2.1.3 if after commencement of attendance at an East Renfrewshire catchment school, the parents/carers would like their child to attend the alternative sector catchment school (e.g. transfer from a non-denominational to denominational catchment primary or secondary school or vice versa)
- 2.1.4 if at the point of transition from primary to secondary education the parents/carers would like their child to attend a secondary school other than a catchment secondary school
- 2.1.5 a family residing outwith East Renfrewshire Council wish their child to attend an East Renfrewshire school.

- 2.2 A placing request to remain in a school is required if:

- the family are or become resident within the catchment area of the school which the child attends, and at a later date move out of the catchment area.
- 2.2.1 Where a placing request to remain relates to a school's year stage which is full, and which already has a redirected child as a consequence, the request to remain will be refused. Exceptionally, if the request to remain is submitted for an East Renfrewshire catchment pupil, and the year stage at the child's new East Renfrewshire catchment school is also full, the application to remain will be granted
- 2.2.2 In all cases where a request to remain cannot be granted parents/carers should make arrangements for their child to attend an alternative school as quickly as possible. The Council expects parents/carers to remove their child from the school register within 4 weeks of receipt of the Request to Remain Refusal Letter.
- 2.2.3 A child's parent(s) is/are responsible for submitting a placing request to remain for a child in the event that they no longer reside within the delineated catchment area of the school and wish for the child to continue to attend the school. Where it is found that a child is no longer entitled to a place in a school (whether that be before or after school enrolment) due to no longer residing in a property in the delineated catchment area associated with the school, and a placing request to remain has not been submitted and approved, the Council will seek to exclude that child from the school in question.

3 Submitting a Placing Request

- 3.1 In December/January of each year, the authority will advertise its arrangements with regards school admission applications and placing requests. Placing requests received before 1 December for a school placing commencing the following academic year will not be processed and the applicant advised to resubmit once the placing request period is open from 1 December.

- 3.2 Where the number of applications submitted on behalf of catchment pupils is greater than the number of places available at that year stage in the catchment school requested i.e. oversubscription, these applications will be treated as placing requests. In this situation, applications will be processed as per the priorities detailed in appendices 1 to 4, as appropriate.
- 3.2.1 Where an application submitted on behalf of a catchment pupil cannot be satisfied and a preferred alternative school has been recorded then this will now be treated as a placing request.
- 3.3 For placing requests received by the deadline date of 31 January, every effort will be made to meet parent/carer requests within the limits of places available in schools, but you should note that it is not always possible to grant every placing request.
- 3.4 Placing requests received after the 31 January may be considered after decisions are made for requests received by the due date.
- 3.5 The parents/carers will declare on the application form that the information they provide is accurate and correct. The Council reserves the right to request further proof of residence or other relevant information related to an application from parents/carers or other Council officials to confirm details.
- 3.6 There are sound educational reasons for trying to ensure that the transfer or admission of children to a school takes place at the start of a school session. You are advised to avoid changing schools part way through the school session to avoid disruption to your child's education.
- 3.7 Most placing requests are made for pupils to change school at the start of a new school session. However it is accepted that there will be circumstances when a placing request will be made for a pupil to change school at any time. In such cases requests will be considered in the order in which they are received.
- 3.8 If you are applying for more than one child please complete a separate form for each child. For each child, you may only apply for one school at any one time.
- 3.9 Please send the completed placing request application form(s) to the Education Department and inform the head teacher of the school that the child attends, or has applied for a catchment place at, of the intention to make a placing request.
- 3.10 You will receive an acknowledgement when your request has been received. If you submitted your application by electronic means the acknowledgment will be sent by e-mail; it is your responsibility to ensure that you provide an accurate and correct e-mail address. If you submitted your application by post, you will receive a postal acknowledgement, unless you provide a valid email address. If you have not received this within 10 working days you should contact the department at 0141 577 3578/3246.

4 How decisions are made

- 4.1 The responsibility for decisions on placing requests lies with the Education Directorate. The presumption is that a placing request will be granted unless there is a valid reason not to grant it.
- 4.2 A successful application for a placing request in a primary school does not guarantee a place in the associated secondary school; a subsequent placing request must be submitted in the January of the child's P7 year stage. Children who attend an associated primary school have an order of priority as detailed in appendices 1 to 4, as appropriate.
- 4.3 The Education Department cannot guarantee placing requests for future siblings. This may result in any future placing request for siblings being refused if, at the point of application the year/stage in the requested school is full.

- 4.4 All applications submitted on behalf of catchment pupils received on time will be considered together.
- 4.5 All placing requests received by 31 January for a school place commencing the following August (new school academic year) will be considered together, along with any placing requests from East Renfrewshire parents/carers whose catchment school application could not be satisfied and who recorded a preferred alternative school.
- 4.6 Where the number of placing requests received is greater than the number of places available at that year stage in the school requested, places will be allocated using the listed priorities in appendices 1 to 4 as appropriate.
- 4.7 If all placing requests received on time for a particular school are granted, and places remain available (taking account of reserved places –see section 6), any placing requests which were received late will then be processed with places allocated using the listed priorities in appendices 1 to 4 as appropriate.
- 4.8 Where the number of requests is greater than the number of places available, the priorities in appendices 1 and 2 will be utilised for applications received from January 2017 for school places in academic sessions 2017-18 and likewise for school session 2018-19. For school places commencing August 2019 and beyond, the priorities in appendices 3 and 4 will be applicable.
- 4.9 The criteria will be applied in the order shown in appendices 1 to 4 as appropriate. If for any category the number of requests exceeds the number of places available, the next succeeding criteria will be used to prioritise these requests and so on until all priority criteria have been exhausted. If, after this process, two or more requests cannot be distinguished as having priority, then a ballot will be held to allocate the places available. This ballot will be organised by a senior education officer.
- 4.10 As soon as a decision has been made you will be notified of the result. If your placing request is successful you will receive a letter inviting you to enrol your child in your chosen school.
- 4.11 A successful placing request to a primary school is valid only until the end of primary 7.
- 4.12 Successful placing requests for a secondary school are valid until the child leaves the school.

5. Why Requests are sometimes not granted

- 5.1 You may be sent a letter notifying you that your request has been refused. This will state why your request has been refused and quote the section of the Education Act which applies.
- 5.2 The most common reason for a placing request refusal is that the school is full at the required stage, that is, all available places at the stage have been allocated and as such additional pupils would require the authority to employ an additional teacher and/or modify or extend the school's accommodation or facilities at this stage or at a future stage of your child's education.
- 5.3 There are other circumstances where a request may be refused including:
- where the granting of the request would interrupt the continuity of the child's education
 - where it is likely that order and discipline in the school or the well-being of pupils in the school would be adversely affected
 - in secondary schools where it is not possible to provide the courses you want.

6. Reserved places

- 6.1 As part of the East Renfrewshire Council Scheme of Delegated Functions the Director of Education is authorised:

“to exercise the powers available to the Council as education authority, in terms of the Standards in Scotland’s Schools etc. Act 2000, with regard the number of places to “reserve” in a particular school to accommodate pupils likely to become resident in the school’s catchment;”

The East Renfrewshire Council Scheme of Delegated Functions is available via the Council’s website.

- 6.2 The number of places reserved for catchment pupils by East Renfrewshire Council for a school depends on a range of factors some of which are listed below:
- Number of intake classes
 - House building in the catchment
 - Catchment migration information
 - History of late enrolments
 - Evidence of re-direction of pupils from other East Renfrewshire schools which are full

The list above is not exhaustive and other factors may be taken into consideration when determining the number of reserved places for a school.

- 6.3 The number of reserved places is kept as low as possible to meet the wishes of as many parents as possible who have submitted placing requests, but high enough to allow the Local Authority to meet its statutory duty of providing an appropriate education, preferably in the child’s local school, for most children.

7. If your Placing Request is refused

- 7.1 You may be very disappointed that your child cannot go to the school you want. You should have a good reason for asking an appeal committee to look at your request again.
- 7.2 You may lodge an appeal and your appeal will be heard by the Education Appeal Committee. The Committee will decide whether the Council have followed its procedures and applied the priorities for granting placing requests for the particular school correctly, and if so, whether they should in any event confirm the authority’s decision.
- 7.3 If you are not provided with a decision on your placing request by 30 April for requests for the new academic year commencing August (or within 2 months for requests made at other times of the year), you may also appeal. However if you decide to appeal you will not be able to make another placing request until the appeal is heard or you withdraw your appeal.
- 7.4 In the case of an Early Entry request there is no opportunity for appeal.
- 7.5 As a general rule, you can only appeal a decision regarding a particular school once each year for each of your children.
- 7.6 Before you decide to appeal you should consider these points:
- Would it be more advantageous to apply for another school at this time rather than appeal?
 - Do you agree with what the Council have said?
 - Do you think what they have said is allowable?
 - Have the Council’s guidelines been followed?
- 7.7 Your appeal should be sent to the Education Department. You will know the reasons why your placing request was refused and you will be given the opportunity to explain to the Education Appeal Committee why the authority was wrong to refuse your request in person or through a representative, whichever you prefer.

7.8 If the appeal committee refuses your request you have the right of further appeal to the Sheriff in which case you may wish to contact a solicitor.

8. Further information

8.1 Submission of information

8.1.1 The information provided as part of an application or placing request must be full and correct in every respect to the best of the parent's/carer's knowledge. East Renfrewshire Council will conduct checks to establish the accuracy of information supplied which may include visits to premises to confirm residence. Any attempts to obtain a place by deception may result in the rescinding of your application/placing request and the matter being passed to the Procurator Fiscal's office for consideration of criminal proceedings.

8.2 Other information

Information concerning schools in other authorities is available from the education offices or department of that authority.

Specific information on placing request procedures may be found in:

"Choosing a School: A Guide for Parents"

from: The Scottish Government Learning Directorate, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

and on the Scottish Government website. The publication is regularly updated, and is best found by searching the web for "Choosing a School Scotland".

If your child has additional support needs you will find advice including information about choosing a school and your appeal rights in "The Parents' Guide to Additional Support for Learning" published by Enquire:

from: Enquire, Children in Scotland, Princes House, 5 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh EH2 4RG
and on the web at <http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/>

Legislation relevant to this topic includes:

Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (HMSO) as amended.

Education (School and Placing Information) (Scotland) Regulation 1982 (S1 1982 No 950 (S.125)) and Amendment Etc. Regulations 1993.

Education (Appeal Committee Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations 1982 (S1 1982 No 1736)

Education (Placing in Schools and Deemed Decisions) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 (S1 185 No 1733)

Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004

Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009

Contacts: East Renfrewshire Council Offices – PLACING REQUEST, Education Department, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire G78 1SY Education Department: Telephone 0141 577 3578/3246 or email admissions@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1

**Order of Priorities for Granting Placing Requests
To All Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools
Effective from January 2017 for School Sessions Commencing August 2017 & August 2018:
*Oversubscription by Catchment***

In the event that a school is oversubscribed by catchment demand, the criteria below are used to allocate places and are listed in order of priority:

1. The parent, with whom the child resides, is resident within the school's delineated catchment area.
2. In the case of a Roman Catholic school, the parent with whom the child resides is resident within the school's delineated catchment area and the child is a baptised Roman Catholic as evidenced by a baptismal certificate.
3. East Renfrewshire residents where the child has a medical condition, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
4. Those cases where a brother or sister attends the school and will continue in this school during the next session.
5. East Renfrewshire residents: when applying for secondary schools, children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary. This means that pupils who have attended the school for the longest time will have the highest priority.
6. East Renfrewshire residents: the child is part of a single parent/carer family where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school. Please provide details with your application.
7. East Renfrewshire residents with no other listed priority

Please Note:

The criteria will be applied in the order shown above. If for any category the number of requests exceeds the number of places available, the next succeeding criteria will be used to prioritise these requests and so on until all priority criteria have been exhausted. If, after this process, two or more requests cannot be distinguished as having priority, then a ballot will be held to allocate the places available. This ballot will be organised by a senior education officer.

Appendix 2

Order of Priorities for Granting Placing Requests
To All Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools
Effective from January 2017 for School Sessions Commencing August 2017 & August 2018:
Placing Requests (Other than Oversubscription by Catchment)

The criteria below are used to prioritise places to placing request applications from those who do not reside within the delineated catchment area of the school, in order of priority:

1. East Renfrewshire residents where the child has a medical condition, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
2. Non-East Renfrewshire residents where the child has a medical condition, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
3. Those cases where a brother or sister attends the school and will continue in this school during the next session.
4. East Renfrewshire residents: when applying for secondary schools, children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary. This means that pupils who have attended the school for the longest time will have the highest priority.
5. Non-East Renfrewshire residents: when applying for secondary schools, children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary. This means that pupils who have attended the school for the longest time will have the highest priority.
6. East Renfrewshire residents: the child is part of a single parent/carer family where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school. Please provide details with your application.
7. Non-East Renfrewshire residents: the child is part of a single parent/carer family where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school. Please provide details with your application.
8. East Renfrewshire residents with no other listed priority
9. Non-East Renfrewshire residents with no other listed priority.

Please Note:

The criteria will be applied in the order shown above. If for any category the number of requests exceeds the number of places available, the next succeeding criteria will be used to prioritise these requests and so on until all priority criteria have been exhausted. If, after this process, two or more requests cannot be distinguished as having priority, then a ballot will be held to allocate the places available. This ballot will be organised by a senior education officer.

Appendix 3

**Order of Priorities for Granting Placing Requests
To All Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools
Effective for School Session Commencing August 2019 and Beyond:
*Oversubscription by Catchment***

In the event that a school is oversubscribed by catchment demand, the criteria below are used to allocate places and are listed in order of priority:

1. The parent, with whom the child resides, is resident within the school's delineated catchment area.
2. In the case of a Roman Catholic school, the parent with whom the child resides is resident within the school's delineated catchment area and the child is a baptised Roman Catholic as evidenced by a baptismal certificate.
3. East Renfrewshire residents where the child has a medical condition, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
4. East Renfrewshire residents: when applying for secondary schools, children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary. This means that pupils who have attended the school for the longest time will have the highest priority.
5. Those cases where a brother or sister attends the school and will continue in this school during the next session.
6. East Renfrewshire residents: the child is part of a single parent/carer family where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school. Please provide details with your application.
7. East Renfrewshire residents with no other listed priority

Please Note:

The criteria will be applied in the order shown above. If for any category the number of requests exceeds the number of places available, the next succeeding criteria will be used to prioritise these requests and so on until all priority criteria have been exhausted. If, after this process, two or more requests cannot be distinguished as having priority, then a ballot will be held to allocate the places available. This ballot will be organised by a senior education officer.

Appendix 4

**Order of Priorities for Granting Placing Requests
To All Roman Catholic and Non-Denominational Primary and Secondary Schools
Effective for School Session Commencing August 2019 and Beyond:
*Placing Requests (Other than Oversubscription by Catchment)***

The criteria below are used to prioritise places to placing request applications from those who do not reside within the delineated catchment area of the school, in order of priority:

1. East Renfrewshire residents where the child has a medical condition, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
2. Non-East Renfrewshire residents where the child has a medical condition, supported with evidence from a medical practitioner, and requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
3. East Renfrewshire residents: when applying for secondary schools, children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary. This means that pupils who have attended the school for the longest time will have the highest priority.
4. Non-East Renfrewshire residents: when applying for secondary schools, children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school according to the length of time at the associated primary. This means that pupils who have attended the school for the longest time will have the highest priority.
5. Those cases where a brother or sister attends the school and will continue in this school during the next session.
6. East Renfrewshire residents: the child is part of a single parent/carer family where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school. Please provide details with your application.
7. Non-East Renfrewshire residents: the child is part of a single parent/carer family where it would be advantageous to the care and welfare of the child to attend the requested school. Please provide details with your application.
8. East Renfrewshire residents with no other listed priority
9. Non-East Renfrewshire residents with no other listed priority.

Please Note:

The criteria will be applied in the order shown above. If for any category the number of requests exceeds the number of places available, the next succeeding criteria will be used to prioritise these requests and so on until all priority criteria have been exhausted. If, after this process, two or more requests cannot be distinguished as having priority, then a ballot will be held to allocate the places available. This ballot will be organised by a senior education officer.

Placing Request /Request to Remain– Application Form

Please read the accompanying “Making a Placing Request Guidance Information”. Tick all of the boxes which apply.

Parent/Carer or Young Person over 16

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other) _____

Last name _____

First name _____

Home Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

email Address: _____

Child/Young Person

Last name _____

First name(s) _____

Gender _____

Date of Birth _____

Current School

Please give details of the school your child/young person presently attends, or at which he/she is registered for admission. *If you are applying for a place in a P1 class please state nursery school attended.*

Current School or Nursery _____

Town _____

School Requested

Name of school _____

Stage required _____

Date to start _____

Sibling Information

The child/young person has a brother or sister already attending the school and will continue to do so next academic year. Please provide name(s) and stage(s)

Additional Support Needs

Does the child/young person have any additional support needs? If so please specify, and attach any reports or evidence.

Vision

Hearing

Learning

Physical Skills

Language and Communication

Behaviour

Other – please specify

If the child/young person is receiving additional support in the current school or nursery, what is the support and who provides it?

The child/young person has, or there is in preparation, or you have asked for an assessment for, a Coordinated Support Plan. (CSP)

Is an external agency such as Social Work, Housing, Health, or Psychological Services is involved with the child/young person? If so please specify.

Support with English Language – for children whose first language is not English

What is the first language of the child/young person?

The child/young person will need support with English language.

OFFICE USE: Once completed PROTECT

Complete this section if you are applying for a priority to be given because the child/young person has a medical condition.

Such an application must be supported by a letter from your GP or other health professional, which must be attached to this application.

Explain what the condition is and why it is that only the requested school can provide for your child's medical condition.

Complete this section if you are applying for a priority to be given because the child/ young person is part of a single parent/carer family.

I am a single parent/carer

Details must be provided below to explain how the attendance of the child at the requested school will help with your child's care and welfare.

Complete this section if the application is for a place in stages S2 to S6 of a secondary school.

State subjects required and which level.

OFFICE USE: Once completed PROTECT

If there is any more information you want to give about your request, please use the space below, or attach a further sheet.

Declaration

I confirm that I have made myself fully aware of ERC's Placing Request Guidance Information before submitting this application form.

The information I have given is full and correct in every respect to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge that if the information that I have submitted is found to be fraudulent my placing request application will be rescinded and the Council may pass the matter to the Procurator Fiscal's Office.

I acknowledge that the form will be returned to me if I have not completed the application in full.

I understand that East Renfrewshire Council will not provide transport for pupils attending schools as a result of successful placing requests.

*Signature of
Parent/Carer or Young Person (if over 16)*

Date

Please send your completed form to:

PLACING REQUEST
East Renfrewshire Council Offices
Education Department
211 Main Street, Barrhead
East Renfrewshire G78 1SY
alternatively scan the completed form to :-
admissions@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Data Protection. The information you provide will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. It will be used in the administration of your request and may be shared with others with a relevant interest, in East Renfrewshire Council. Nov 2016